

London South East Academies Trust is a growing and thriving multi-academy trust (MAT) consisting of main stream, specialist and alternative provision, currently operating in Bexley, Bromley and Surrey. The Trust is currently responsible for eight schools and has a growth strategy to increase to circa 15 schools, increasing its mainstream primary and Surrey based provision over the next couple of years. Most schools are presently judged Good to Outstanding. The Trust prides itself on being a local MAT with ambitions to grow to a medium-sized organisation. The Trust is a community-based organisation which has in-depth understanding of the local context and establishes strong connections with stakeholders and local authority partners, ensuring that children have access to high quality alternative, specialist and mainstream provision.

London South East Colleges is the sponsor of the MAT, having responded to a request from the DfE in 2013 to support school improvement in local schools in Bromley. The College plays a key role as a strategic stakeholder of the Trust, through its shared public and charitable objectives for '*the advancement of education*' and in providing significant support to Trust business operations, through the central Group Services of Finance & Payroll, HR, Estates Planning, Health & Safety, Marketing, IT and Safeguarding.

The **Trust** is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such it is registered with Companies House. As an exempt charity is not required to be registered with the Charities Commission, as the principal regulatory for the Trust is the Secretary of State for Education.

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees and Accounting Officer (Dr Sam Parrett, CBE) who are collectively, legally accountable for the academic and financial performance of the Trust. They are both Directors of a Limited Company and Trustees, appointed under the Trust's Articles of Association and in compliance with Company and Charities law and the DfE Academies Handbook. Dr Sam Parrett, CBE is the CEO of the Trust and a Trustee. John Hunt is the Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

The primary role of Trustees is to provide confident and strong strategic leadership which leads to robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. In addition to setting the strategic vision, the Trust Board's core functions are to hold Executive Leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils including school improvement and the quality of education. As well as the performance management of staff and to oversee the financial performance of the organisation, making sure its money is well spent.

The Trust Board convenes as a full Board, six times a year (twice per academic year). Group and Trust Committees meet three times per year (once per term).

Trust Board

The Trust Board is led by an experienced Chair, Mark Burnett, who himself has worked in a large regional MAT and is now CEO of a faith-based growing MAT. Mark brings significant professional experience to the Board in terms of robust challenge and quality assurance monitoring.

Other Trustees contribute to the strength of the Board through a diverse range of backgrounds which include finance and accounting, law, educational leadership, environmental, equality and diversity business and regulatory. Trustees serve and commit to a four-year term of office and can serve up to eight years in office.

Trustees

Mark Burnett (Chair); Mark is an experienced and successful senior leader within the education sector and became Chair of the Trust in 2018. He currently leads a rapidly growing Multi-Academy Trust in the South East of England. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (FCMI), a Fellow of the Institute of School Business Leadership (FISBL), and a Professional Member of the Institute of Leadership and Management (MInstLM).

Max Bero (Vice Chair); Max joined the Board in 2018. He is the Chief Internal Auditor for Flood Re Ltd, where he is responsible for providing assurance over the design and operating effectiveness of the company's internal control environment, information systems and governance processes. He has over 15 years' experience in Assurance and Financial Control covering insurance, Reinsurance and Asset Management. Max is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Internal Auditor and a Chartered Company Secretary. Max serves on the **Group Audit & Risk Committee**.

Dr Tom Pey; Tom joined the Trust Board in 2019, followed a successful career in senior financial and marketing positions in international corporations until he lost his sight at the age of 39. Tom is currently the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for Blind Children and before this Head of External Affairs for the Blind Dogs Association. Tom is a member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) where he co-authored the world's standard for audio-based navigation, leading research and development of applications on internal and external navigation for blind people. Tom is a founding member of Wayfindr and is long-time advocate for the rights of disabled people. Tom serves on the **Group Finance Committee**.

Christopher Philpott; Chris has been a member of the Trust Board since 2019 and has recently retired from his role as a Reader in Music Education at the University of Greenwich, London and a former interim Pro Vice-Chancellor in the University's Faculty of Education and Health. Before moving to Greenwich he was a secondary music teacher for 16 years, with a background in the Brass Bands of East Kent, and then became a teacher educator at Canterbury Christ Church University. He has written and edited books, online texts and resources which are used in initial teacher education (ITE) programmes throughout the United Kingdom. Chris **Chairs, the Education Performance and Standards Committee**.

Denise James Mason; Denise joined the Trust Board in 2019 having served as a local governor for the Bromley Schools. Denise has worked in education for over 35 years and as well as being a qualified teacher she holds a BA, MA and Diploma in Special Education. She has spent most of her career working in special education and prior to her retirement in 2019, lead an Outstanding all age special school in Bromley for 17 years. As well as acting as a mentor to new Head Teachers, Denise was also an Ofsted Inspector. Denise will **Chair the Specialist Provision Board** from 2021 and serves on the **Education, Performance and Standards Committee**.

Janet Saunders: Janet joined the Trust Board in 2019. Her career has spanned 40 years in education having been a primary school Headteacher and a Primary Inspector in Greenwich. She was Chair of Sure Start South Greenwich setting up services for young, disadvantaged families in an area of high deprivation. Janet is committed to ensuring that the best possible educational opportunities are present for our young people. Janet will **Chair the Primary Provision Board** from 2021, serves on the **Education, Performance and Standards Committee** and is the **Lead Trustee for Safeguarding**.

Charles Yates: Charles joined the Trust Board at the beginning of 2021, having served six years on the LSEC Corporation. Charles has extensive board level experience in both the public and private sectors with a strong commercial perspective. Previously, he was an Associate Director at the accountants Grant Thornton and before that at an investment bank. He is engaged with the local community as the Treasurer of the 4th Bromley Scouts group and has a particular interest and experience in the environment and the emerging Green Economy. Charles serves on the **Group Finance Committee** and will be a key Board Member involved in the **Group Climate and Sustainability Committee** in 2021/22.

David Bailey: David joined the Trust Board at the beginning of 2021 and is an experienced Senior Executive with a high degree of business and commercial skills gained in multi-national consultancy work. David has experience of delivering high-risk complex projects and turnarounds whilst working with investors and executives. David brings an innovative approach to problem solving, negotiating, leadership and management and has previous experience of MAT Governance. David serves on the **Education Performance and Standards Committee**.

Dr Sébastien Champleau; Sébastien joined the Trust Board in 2021. He is an educational leader and community organiser and has been supporting schools and colleges on issues of civic leadership for over 10 years. He is a trained teacher and has a PhD in children's literature and critical pedagogy. Sébastien works for Citizen UK where he coaches Headteachers across the UK on issues of leadership and community engagement. Sébastien was the founding Headteacher of La Fontaine Academy, a primary school established in Bromley in 2014. Sébastien has other governor roles in primary and secondary settings, as well as being a Trustee for Trees for Cities and a Non-Executive Director at Maintenant – Sustaining Now.

Emma Brand; Joined the Trust Board in 2021. She works for the DfE as a Team Leader within the National Schools Commissioner's Office. She manages stakeholder relationships with one of the largest, national academy trusts on behalf of the National Schools Commissioner and co-ordinates related regional activity. She has over 12 years experience working within the public sector, previously working for the UK Financial Regulator, FSA, as an Associate in roles across enforcement, supervision and change management. Emma is a qualified teacher and has previously taught KS2.

Professor Lynne Revell; Lynne is the most recent addition to the Trust Board. She is a Professor of Religion and Education at Canterbury Christ Church University where she is also Director for Research in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Education. She is trained as a secondary school teacher of Religious Education and after working as a lecturer in special educational needs at South Kent College she gained her doctorate in 2000 and joined Canterbury Christ Church University as a senior lecturer in Primary Teacher Education. Lynne has written and produced many resources for schools and has worked with young people who are unable to enter or have been excluded from mainstream education over a period of years. She is currently working with schools in London and the South East to develop approaches to racism and anti-racism in education.

Jennifer Pharo is the **Group Executive Director of Governance**, the **Clerk to the Trust Board and Company Secretary**. Jenny provides governance, legal and regulatory advice and guidance directly to the Board, ensuring the Board operates within the DfE legal framework and charities and company law. She provides technical, practical and organisational expertise in supporting both the Board and Executive Leaders on all governance matters relating to the operations and development of the Trust.

Trust Local Governance

New for 2021/22 academic year the Trust has organised its local governance arrangements with the establishment of **Provision Boards for SEND, Alternative and Primary Mainstream**, which will be Chaired or Co-Chaired by Trustees.

Local Academy Councils will be set up at school level and include active parent and staff representatives alongside local community governors. Circa 40 local community governors will participate in our local governing arrangements in 2021/22, including staff and parent local governors.

The **Academy Councils** and **Provision Boards** will focus on school improvement, quality of education, outcome for learners, safeguarding and risk management, holding Academic Leaders and Head Teachers to account for the performance of individual schools and report up to the Trust Board.