

Hanging Hill Lane,  
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**Executive Headteacher:**  
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**St Martin's**  
**School**  
Be the best you can be

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02 December 2024

Dear Parent and Carers

**Re: Parent Governor Election**

I wrote to you on 13 November 2024 to invite nominations for the vacancy for a parent governor. I am delighted to say that there are six candidates for the vacancy; this means we must now hold a ballot and parents/carers are required to vote for their preferred candidate.

Attached to this letter is a brief supporting statement from each candidate in alphabetical order of surname. This link [Ballot Form](#) will direct you to a Microsoft Forms page where you can vote for your chosen candidate.

Each parent/carer of a child at St Martin's School may vote only once, even if you have more than one child in the school. If you are unable to complete the online voting process, you may obtain a copy of the ballot paper by contacting Mrs Isaacs via [zisaacs@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:zisaacs@st-martins.essex.sch.uk) or by requesting that a copy of the ballot paper is posted to you

***The closing date for receipt of votes is midday on Friday 13 December 2024. Votes received after this time will not be valid.***

In order to ensure that only eligible parents/carers of pupils in this election, you are required to provide your name and the name of your child/children who attend the school, however this information will remain strictly confidential and will be visible only to myself as the returning officer and my PA Mrs Isaacs. It will not be shared with any other staff member, parent/carer or the candidates. It will be held until the voting closes on Friday 13 2024 at midday and the results are confirmed. Once the votes have been counted, the results of the election will be announced.

Yours faithfully

**Mr J Foster**  
**Executive Headteacher**



**DISCOVERY**  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff  
St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust

**Candidate 1 – Jason Baker****Supporting Statement**

I am a Senior Enterprise Architect Manager at the Financial Conduct Authority, with 35+ years' experience. I work with business stakeholders on a daily basis, turning ideas into direction, helping them understand and implement our organisational strategy for people, process and technology change, challenging where needed; our portfolio runs at roughly 72 Million per year. Our role is to build trust with our leadership.

I run a technical governance function and take part weekly in wider business governance forums as part of my role, this requires a high level of due diligence and involves reading and supporting/approving board papers. I also manage 14 staff. As a result, I have excellent communication skills and build strong relationships. I have been interested in school governor positions for some time, now that both my children are more independent, I feel the timing is right.

I am a husband and father to two children. My daughter recently joined St Martins and I believe my own personal and professional experience make me a suitable candidate for parent governor. At the FCA we live several values, "Act with Integrity", "Be ambitious" and "Work Inclusively". These align strongly with the St Martins Ethos.

**Candidate 2 – Stuart Cornwell****Supporting Statement**

My Son joined St Martins School this year and our daughter will in the future so I am keen to be more involved. I have been a Scout leader for 1st Blackmore for the last 10 years, being involved in all aspects of Scouting, helping both Cubs and Scouts develop life, adventure and personal skills in a safe environment. This is done through badge work including for example, home economics, science, astronomy, pioneering and survival skills. This helps the children (age 10-14) develop good social/ interpersonal skills through teamwork. We also take the Scouts camping to enhance these skills while having a great time trying new activities like abseiling, canoeing and white-water rafting. Through Scouts I have a very good understanding of safeguarding and protecting young people.

I work for a pharmaceutical company as a business development director, leading a team on both drug discovery and sales and marketing. At university I studied Physiology and Pharmacology and have always had a passion for science and medicine.

I enjoy most sports and am an active skier and golfer. In my family time I enjoy cycling and walking with the family around Essex and beyond, as well as helping teach our children cooking which I am the main cook for in the house.

**Candidate 3 – Darren Howlett****Supporting Statement**

I am a Chartered Insurance Broker working in the City of London in a career spanning 30 plus years to date. I work with large Global Corporate Clients ensuring their assets and liabilities are fully protected, enabling the businesses to concentrate on growth and profit enhancing future employment opportunities for the next generation of job seekers.

During that time, I have fulfilled different job functions and held various Leadership roles including People Management, Strategic business planning, Key Performance Indicator setting and monitoring and Budget Management.

I have learnt and developed many professional and personal skills over the years that leave me well positioned to understand the attributes and values a School should be looking to install and develop within their pupils. Those values extend beyond pure academic skills as the work environment requires employees to possess a multitude of interpersonal skills.

I am a Father of two daughters (Jessica and Annabel) currently at St Martin's with a Son (Luke) due to join in September 2025 so I have a vested interest in the Discovery Education Trust and Local School Committee succeeding in their mission to help ALL pupils be the best they can be.

We live in Hutton so the important value of St Martin's role in the local Community is fully understood within our household and extended friends and family.

If professional references were to be taken, my career behaviours and conduct has mirrored the values stated in the Seven Principles of Public Life first set out by Lord Nolan in 1995.

#### **Candidate 4 – Amanda Moore**

##### **Supporting Statement**

I am writing to express my interest in becoming a school governor at St Martins. I have 15 years of experience in government, where I've gained insight into the workings of the local government education system and developed leadership, problem-solving, and financial management skills that would help me contribute effectively to the governing board.

As a parent of a child with special educational needs (SEN), I understand the importance of inclusivity and tailored support to ensure every child can thrive. I have first-hand experience navigating the education system and am committed to ensuring every child, regardless of ability or background, has the chance to achieve their potential.

I am particularly passionate about advocating for policies and practices that ensure no child is left behind, regardless of their individual needs.

I have also been actively involved the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which has strengthened my belief in the importance of equal opportunities and strong support systems in schools.

It is vital for schools to listen to and reflect the needs of families. I am committed to being an advocate for parents' voices, working closely with other governors and staff to ensure the school continues to grow as a place where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

I will support the school's vision for every student to be the best that they can be, and would bring my energy, time, and skills to help improve outcomes for all students. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to discussing how I can contribute to the school's success.

#### **Candidate 5 – Becky Ridgley**

##### **Supporting Statement**

I work in the NHS with children completing Neurodevelopmental assessments and mental health assessments as a Psychologist. I work closely with schools and understand the pressures teachers are under. I would be interested in this role to empower and educate the teachers/SENCO/Pastoral and general ideas in line with the school values.

#### **Candidate 6 – Stacey Rubery**

##### **Supporting Statement**

I've dedicated my career to educating students in London and the South East, in challenging contexts to support all students to achieve their potential. I believe every child has the right to an

excellent well-rounded education having spent my career in relentless pursuit of this. My specialist leadership areas focus on curriculum development, whole school data, extracurricular, timetabling, policy writing, whole school training with a focus on vision and ethos, professional development, teaching and learning and the review across all areas for impact. As a head of a large mathematics department and as assistant headteacher, I have been part of strategy planning for development and worked closely with school governors to achieve this, so understand the support and challenge needed in this role. Since 2022, when I left my last senior leadership role to expand my consultancy business I have worked with a number of schools across London and South England to offer curriculum support, curriculum development and timetabling, whole school data systems, and leadership coaching which I continue to do alongside working for an emerging management information system. Additionally, I have 20 years of exam marking experience from KS2 to A level Maths and have facilitated for the Institute of Education, leading NPQML and NPQSL courses. My son, has just started at St Martin's and I would love to be able to use my experience to show my support in the role of parent governor and again be a part of a great school on its journey.