



THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL

1. **THREE CANDIDATES** have been nominated for the **TWO VACANCIES** of Parent Governor.
2. **CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS** are on the website and attached below.
3. The **FIRST PRIORITY PARENT CAN VOTE USING SURVEYMONKEY** and will receive an email by 9am 13th March. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR SPAM/JUNK FOLDER.** The **SECOND PRIORITY PARENT WILL NEED TO VOTE USING A BALLOT PAPER** downloadable from the website and attached here.
4. **EACH PARENT** is entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of vacancies i.e. **EACH PARENT IS ABLE TO VOTE FOR TWO CANDIDATES.**
5. If voting by paper **PLEASE USE INK TO PLACE AN X** against the two candidates of your choice.
6. Papers recording more than the required votes or marked in any other way will be **INVALID.**
7. We will be using a **DOUBLE ENVELOPE SYSTEM** which guarantees anonymity whilst ensuring nobody votes twice over.

CANDIDATES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER – YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES

Mr Ben Backhouse	
Dr Richard Emsley	
Mrs Rachel Havill	

- **Below are statements** prepared by each candidate about themselves (also on website)
- You can vote **online OR on paper. If using paper**
- When you have chosen your preferred candidate, please **fold the ballot paper.**
- **Do not write your name** on the ballot paper.
- The ballot paper should be sealed in an **inner unmarked envelope**, which should be sealed in an **outer envelope with the name of the voter** printed on the back.
- The **voter will be ticked off**, the **outer envelope will be shredded** and the **unmarked envelope will be put into the ballot box.**
- Ballot papers may be returned via **a pupil, by post or by the voter in person.** A **ballot box will be available at reception** at School.
- All votes must be received by **12 noon on Friday 22nd March.** Ballot papers received after this date, for whatever reason, will not be counted.
- The result will be announced by **12 noon on Monday March 25th to candidates and put on the website by 5pm on the same day.**

Ben Backhouse

My name is Ben Backhouse and I am the father of Alice and Harriet Backhouse, both pupils of the Cotswold School; our youngest daughter Isla will be joining in September. My wife Nicole and I have been married for 15 years and she practices as a private psychotherapist at a large girls school in Cheltenham.

I was born in the Cotswolds and have lived here all my life; my family have farmed here since the 1930's and we continue to run a sizeable arable farm today. In addition to helping with the family farm I established and run a financial services business specialising in life insurance.

The contrasting experience of dealing with local farmers on the one hand and wealthy private clients in London and abroad on the other, have, I hope, given me a rounded perspective on life.

I have always been hugely impressed with The Cotswold School, its ethos towards continuing improvement and its ambition. Small things such as the impeccable timekeeping at parents' meetings and the behaviour of students impress me. I can honestly say the pupils I have come across equal or better any that come from the private system.

I very much believe in the 'access for all' philosophy and the pride the school has in being a state funded comprehensive that truly aims to excel in all areas. I believe and hope the experience this will give our children will make them well-rounded, successful and appreciative without feelings of entitlement. I have every confidence in the schools ability to set them up for life's adventures and challenges.

To me, the main barrier to achieving this will be funding and I would hope my financial services background along with experience of running two businesses will allow me to bring real value to the role.

I bring no specific skills to the position, apart from a five year stint as Churchwarden; I have undertaken no formal civic duties but, like all parents, I want the best for our Children and having committed their most formative years to The Cotswold School, I would like to do what I can to support the institution.

KEEP READING – SCROLL DOWN TO THE NEXT PAGE

Dr Richard Emsley

I have recently completed a 4-year term as a Parent Governor at The Cotswold School, including 3 years as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

During my term I have gained significant experience in the governance matters affecting the school, and the issues, both local and national, that affect its finances and operations. I have developed a great appreciation for the staff and students and the efforts they make to ensure The Cotswold School, is and remains, an outstanding school and, as an experienced Parent Governor, I am seeking election for a second term.

During my business career I have served as a director on numerous Boards, including plc level, and as a result I am familiar with organisational governance issues, the demands of staffing a complex organisation and of working with finite resources. Currently, I am a Director of Afion Media, an international events management business based in Stow.

For fresh air, exercise and adrenalin, I have coached minis rugby at Stow RFC for the past eleven years and am currently with U16s. While I enjoy the sporting success we have achieved, one of the main benefits has been to see the players develop into young adults. For relaxation, I research the background to British military medals and their campaigns, and I sit on the national Executive Committee of the Orders & Medals Research Society where I am responsible for the development of its online strategy and for the organisation of the annual Convention.

From my time as Parent Governor I understand that school is a challenging, complex environment that needs to provide a safe, secure and supporting environment where pupils of all abilities can realise their potential, whether in an academic field, sports, the arts or a vocational pursuit. However, a school's academic success is a very narrow definition of success as a school has a pivotal role in creating well-rounded, confident people capable of taking their place in an increasingly globalised and competitive world and this places many demands on the management and leadership of the school.

As with a business, good leadership and management are key to achieving a well-run organisation and I would like to again offer my experience and enthusiasm in helping The Cotswold School develop and grow.

KEEP READING – SCROLL DOWN TO THE NEXT PAGE

Rachel Havill



As parents of children attending The Cotswold School, we are privileged to have such a high performing Academy striving to achieve the potential of every child, accessible to us in our local community. Its status and reputation are testament to the efforts of the leadership team and the commitment of its staff members.

However, times are becoming increasingly challenging and budget shortfalls will require tough decisions to be made; we should not underestimate the challenges ahead. It is all our responsibility to share this problem and do our part as parents to ensure our children receive the best educational experience.

As a governor I would expect to represent the views of the parents and use my experience and expertise to help provide support and direction to the leadership team, building on the successes of the school and helping to oversee its continual long-term development.

For the last 12 years I have been Director of my own strategic brand consultancy working with the Executive teams of many companies, helping them create and evolve their brand strategies and accelerate their commercial performance. I've worked across a breadth of sectors with companies such as TOAST clothing, John Lewis, Travelodge and Wyevale Garden Centres, so I am comfortable collaborating, constructively challenging and advising at a leadership level. Previous to this, I held senior executive roles at Ask.com, Levi's and Whitbread.

I have extensive experience of integrating myself quickly into organisations, listening and asking the right questions to build a genuine understanding of its people, strengths and challenges. I work hard to build trusted relationships that enable me to deliver objective advice and challenge constructively without creating conflict. However, I am also not afraid to take the big and sometimes difficult decisions and speak up when appropriate. I believe the extent and diversity of my experience will enable me to bring a different perspective to the governing body sharing my learnings and expertise to help shape the longer-term strategic direction for The Cotswold School.

I have lived locally with my family for the last 12 years. I have a daughter who is in year 7, having started at the school last September and another 2 daughters in year 5 at a local primary school. I am therefore keen to make a long-term commitment to the position of governor acting in the best interests of the school, its staff and pupils, whilst sharing in the accountability for its performance and monitoring progress.

I am passionate about using my experience and expertise to ensure that the school is constantly striving to exceed the potential of each and every child.

END OF STATEMENTS