

**Helen (Dunster) Custard - Intellectual Property and Licensing Manager, University of Birmingham
Parent of Tobiath (Y6 @Longborough School), Noah (Y9), Gethin (Y11) and Jacob Custard (Y12) @The
Cotswold School**

Our family moved from Dorset to the Cotswolds 5 years ago. At the time The Cotswold School was awarded The Sunday Times "Best Comprehensive School" in 2015/16, and was an OFSTED outstanding performing school, so we decided to move to North Cotswolds specifically to send our children to this high performing school. I will soon have 4 children at The Cotswold School spanning from Y7 to Y13 in Sep 2022, so I would like to be considered for the position as a parent governor, to maintain and improve its outstanding performance in all areas of governance. Particularly SENCO as I have parental experience of this, as one of our sons has processing dyslexia, so I understand the safeguarding, inclusivity and resourcing challenges that all schools face, particularly in this area.

However, my industry and academic experience will also help me support (and challenge) the school across all areas of governance, having worked in a highly regulated pharmaceutical and private hospital industry for 10+ years, and for the last 5 years I've worked as a legal advisor in academia (a charitable organisation), where my primary responsibility is to protect and commercialise the research outputs from the university (using a finite patent budget) to generate as much impact as possible. Much of my role involves having discussions of a confidential nature with patent attorneys, academics, investors, industry and funders; negotiating and drafting confidential disclosure agreements, commercial agreements, board paper recommendations, shareholders agreements and articles of association. My team also supports academics to form spin-out companies, using our networks to build board-level teams with the right skill mix and experience to attract investment, to optimise the growth of the companies for job creation. I support our academics by providing company director business skills training, as most academic inventors have no industry and business skills experience. My role also involves analysing large volumes of complex data, being involved with board-level committees throughout the university with external funders present (to whom the university is accountable to), facilitating the governance of translational funding grants, and reporting to funders on the outputs and impact of our translational research. All in all I'm experienced in academic governance, and I have strong links in academia, industry and healthcare, to facilitate ongoing career development opportunities for the school students (whether this be via the academic or vocational - degree apprenticeship - route).

I also have Human Resources, employment law, project management, procurement, auditing and business development experience, plus I'm proficient in various ICT skills (as requested by the principle in this year's parent governor notice). And if I was elected to this role my aim would be to utilise my transferable skills to work with the principle, senior leadership team, staff and governors of the school to ensure the school meets its strategic aims, vision and values, whilst maintaining and improving the outstanding performance of all students at The Cotswold School. I will partake in any training required for the role, and I'm fully dedicated to governor commitments and expectations.

KEEP SCROLLING DOWN

Candidate Statement Michael Goss

I am married to Ruth and we have two children, Sophia and Zander. This is Sophia's first year at the Cotswold school while Zander attends Bourton Primary School. I currently work as a Global Portfolio Manager for Spirax Sarco, a FTSE 100 company in Cheltenham, and I am a governor of the Primary School. I believe that my experience as a Primary School Governor and my Strategic Leadership and Decision-Making skills can help the school. In my spare time, my children and I attend martial arts training (currently blue belts) and I am a member of a softball team.

KEEP SCROLLING DOWN

Parent Governor Nomination Statement - Nicholas Hartnell

Between 1991 and 1998 I attended The Cotswold School, becoming deputy head boy in my final year.

I feel very lucky to have experienced such a great school that allowed me to succeed academically and gave me opportunities to develop as a young person. Achieving a Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award was a particular highlight as well as participating in the school sports teams.

On leaving school I went on to read Computing and Informatics at The University of Plymouth.

I am now a freelance IT contractor working with large government departments.

In 2018 I was elected as a Parent Governor at Northleach Primary School, where I hold several responsibilities, including chairing the resources committee and overseeing the governance of the school premises and health & safety. I also sit on the head teacher's performance management and pay review panels.

My son, Edward, recently started in Year 7 and is already throwing himself into every sports club that he possibly can.

My daughter, Jemima, is currently in Year 5 at Northleach Primary School and is already looking forward to joining the Cotswold School when the time comes.

I would like to follow my two children as their education continues onto secondary school by becoming a parent governor of The Cotswold School.

It is important to me that the school continues to strive to achieve its full potential and that ALL children remain safe and happy in an environment where they are supported and challenged academically.

KEEP SCROLLING DOWN

Parent Governor Candidate Statement - Caroline Sence

I would like to be considered for the role of Parent Governor. I've been working to improve the educational outcomes of disadvantaged children and young people (cyp) for nearly 20 years, and feel that I could bring significant knowledge to the Governing Body around this area. I was previously a parent governor at my sons' primary school in London, and I am the parent of a child with SEN, and another child who was previously in care. I feel that as parent governor at the Cotswold School I would be able to blend my experiences working to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, with lived experience of educating and parenting children who struggle with mainstream education.

I am a Certified Teacher in New York State. As Lead Teacher for a SEN early years classroom in the projects of Brooklyn, I learned very quickly the impact that being insecure about food, housing and safety, has on the ability of children to learn. And I felt utterly discouraged when disadvantaged children I supported to thrive, failed to maintain gains made, when in a less supportive environment. I'm primed now to see the barriers that cyp face to educational success and positive wellbeing, and am keenly aware how complex and challenging it is to support children to overcome these in order to fulfil their potentials.

Feeling the need to be more involved in systems change for disadvantaged families, I pursued a Masters and Doctorate in Developmental Psychology, focusing on reading. I believe passionately in the power of reading to allow cyp to overcome disadvantage, and at the Florida Centre for Reading Research at Florida State University, I was immersed in a rigorous research environment with world leaders in the fields of literacy, teacher education and progress monitoring, who were focused on reading ability and disability.

I've now worked in the UK charity sector for 13 years, bringing my teaching experiences and research background together. My experiences relevant to the role of Parent Governor include:

- Programme Manager at the National Literacy Trust, where I oversaw the Young Readers Programme, contributed to research, and developed programmes to support disadvantaged families to better engage with reading.
- Development Manager at West London Zone, where I worked to develop a social impact bond focused on changing the outcomes (educational attainment and wellbeing) for cyp at risk of educational failure.
- Partnerships Manager at Read for Good, where I've been delivering a two year reading for pleasure campaign in Gloucestershire, with a special focus this year on pupils in special schools, and those without a tertiary education destination.

Through my work, I am keenly aware of the impact that COVID-19 school closures have had on all cyp, but especially those who are disadvantaged. I would value the opportunity to work alongside the other School Governors, Mr Morgan, and The Cotswold School staff at this unprecedented time, in hopes my professional and personal experiences can contribute to school's post pandemic recovery.

Thank you for considering my self-nomination,

END OF CANDIDATE STATEMENTS