

Great Academy Ashton Interim Executive Board

Biographies

Mrs Christine Birchall

Christine is an independent consultant who has extensive experience of school improvement.

She is a history specialist who has been head of history in two schools and head of humanities faculty in two others. In addition she has been history adviser for a local authority. As a senior local authority adviser, school improvement partner and National Challenge Adviser, as well as National Strategies school improvement regional adviser, she has extensive experience of working with schools in challenging circumstances to effect improvements. Her current work includes both leading and coordinating reviews and school improvement for large consortia, providing 'resident inspector' support for a local authority and school improvement partner support for a Multi Academy Trust. These schools range from being outstanding all the way through to inadequate. She also has considerable inspection experience. Christine is a very experienced trainer who offers tailored training on a wide range of issues to suit all levels of audience.

(Christine is currently a lead Ofsted Inspector but is not allowed to advertise as so.)

Mr Mike OHare

Mike is a highly experienced educationalist.

From 1993-2008 he was Principal Holy Cross Sixth Form College in Bury. From 2008-2016 he was Director Northern Schools and Colleges Leadership Programme. Mike has experience of chairing and leading IEBs. In 2009 - 11 he was a member of the IEB for Alkrington Primary School. From 2011-20014 an IEB Member for Deepdish Community School and from 2008 to present, the chair of the IEB and subsequently Chair of Governors for Hollin Primary School. Prior to his appointment at Holy Cross he worked in 3 11-18 schools in Salford, Oldham and Knowsley. In 2008 Holy Cross was rated as Outstanding by OFSTED, and ranked in the Guardian Top Ten Colleges as measured by A Level results.

Ms Deborah Ball

Deborah is a serving and very experienced Head teacher of a school which has similar characteristics to GAA.

Deborah has successful experience of working at a senior level in very challenging schools whose demographics have very high numbers of disadvantaged students. Deborah has experience of putting together two failing schools and leading that school within 3 years to a good Ofsted judgement (she is still Head at the school and the Progress 8 scores for the school are the second best in the LA.) Deborah is familiar with Tameside having spent 7 years much earlier in her career as Head of Science at Copley Academy. Deborah has been the vice-chair of the Pioneers Trust for the last 3 years and thus has good experience of working with Head teachers at a strategic and operational level.

Mr Greg Suligowski

Greg served for a short time on the NCA Governing Body, before the school became GAA, and is currently a senior executive in the railway industry. Prior to this Greg has held senior roles in a variety of organisations in the public, private and non-profit sectors in and around the North West. Greg is very experienced in strategic planning and delivery, change management and engagement. His areas of expertise are customer service design and delivery, performance monitoring, marketing and communications

We asked Greg to join the IEB as a succession planning measure and hope that when reconstituting a local board he will be in a position to take the Chair.