



MEET OUR SCHOOLS

CLICK ON LOGOS FOR THEIR WEBSITES

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

- Do you have a little time to give something back to our community?
- Are you a strategic thinker?
- Are you keen to support the vision of an inspirational education for all children?

If you can answer yes to one of these questions, why not consider volunteering for a governance role within Castleman Academy Trust.

There are two types of governance within multi-academy trusts and we currently have vacancies for volunteers in both.

School Level Governance – School Standards Boards

School Standards Boards are made up of elected parent governors and appointed community governors. Some boards also have an elected staff governor. The School Standards Boards monitor school standards and support the Senior Leaders to ensure the very highest quality provision for our children. In essence, local governors “champion the school experience for the child, the family and staff”.

A number of our schools are looking to recruit for community governor vacancies. Whilst you cannot volunteer to this role of your child’s school, but have you considered volunteering to this role in one of our other CAT schools? Do you have friends/neighbours/work colleagues who might be interested in supporting local education?

The Trust Board

In multi-academy trusts, the Trust Board is responsible for all the schools in the Trust. The Trustees are extremely conscious that together they require all the skills of a rounded, independent, educational and commercial organisation to succeed in their role to bring about the vision and deliver an inspirational education. Trustees cannot also fulfil the role of local governor, as the decisions they may have to take in order to ensure the longevity of the Trust will sometimes be difficult. Trustees influence schools via their overall strategic direction for the Multi Academy Trust, rather than have a specific focus on any individual member school.

The Trust Board are currently seeking to appoint a Trustee with educational experience and we are able to appoint a parent from a member school to this role. Whilst we cannot appoint staff from Trust schools, do you have friends/colleagues/neighbours who might be interested in supporting local education in the Broadstone and Ferndown communities?



BROADSTONE
FIRST SCHOOL



BROADSTONE
MIDDLE SCHOOL



Further information about governance within our Trust can be found on the website www.castlemanacademytrust.co.uk/about-us/governor-and-trustee-vacancies/

If you are interested in exploring one of these opportunities, please contact Gill McDonald, Director of Governance Operations, on gmcDonald@castlemanacademytrust.co.uk.

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Gill McDonald

Director Of Governance Operations



Whilst I grew up in North West London, I have lived in Broadstone for 27 years and both my children went through the local schools.

My professional career began working as a manager's secretary for a well-known high street bank, at a large branch behind Oxford Street (not good for the bank balance), on the edge of Soho (a definite conversation-stopper!).

When my husband was made redundant and we relocated to Poole, I had to go to the atlas to find out where that was – no Google Maps in those days! After a few years working as a full-time Mum, I was appointed as Clerk to Governors at Broadstone First School in 2006, a role which I found extremely flexible to work around childcare and family life. In subsequent years, I was gradually appointed to a variety of other roles in school, particularly supporting music – samba band was one of my favourites!

When CAT was formed in 2014, I became Director of Governance Operations. My role involves oversight of governance operations across the Trust. As well as providing clerking and governance support to our Board of Trustees, I also provide support and advice to the local school governors and their Governance Officers. Part of my role is also to ensure that our governance procedures meet the statutory requirements from the DfE.

Aside from my working life, I have been involved in Scouting all my life and currently manage Broadstone Scout Group, supporting leaders to deliver the fun and adventure that Scouting has to offer. I am assistant organist at Broadstone United Reformed Church where I also co-ordinate our children's and youth work. As a keen musician, I also play with the Westbourne Orchestral Society.

LATEST NEWS

FROM OUR SCHOOLS



We were so pleased that three CAT schools were among six schools awarded a grant from The John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation which they will be using for garden improvements! We'd like to thank the organisation so much for this wonderful support for our schools and young people.

The funding has been made by the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation for projects aimed at help with wellbeing, particularly post-pandemic.

Ferndown Middle School are creating a tranquility garden and their award will contribute towards the ground works and planting to make a quiet, peaceful space for children to reflect at break and lunchtimes. The space will also be used for counselling and well-being activities to support the children's mental health

At **Ferndown First School** the award will pay for the 'centre piece' climbing frame for the play trail. The importance of outside play in early years is invaluable for development.

Parley First School will install a Mongolian yurt, used throughout the year to provide shelter and a calming space for children to receive teaching and a range of therapies.

The JTYAF was set up in 2008 in memory of John Thornton, 21 who was killed in Afghanistan.

John's legacy lives on making a real difference to the lives of local young people.



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John Bagwell

Head Teacher

I have lived and worked in schools in East Dorset for my whole career.

I started teaching in 1995 when Bearwood Primary School was opened for the first time and I have taught and been a head teacher in number of different schools including Canford Heath First School, Wimborne First School, Hayeswood First School and for the last ten years I have been headteacher at Parley First School.

I have a passion for supporting all pupils but certainly for those most vulnerable children including children with Special Educational Needs.

I enjoyed being a Special Needs Co-ordinator whilst at Canford Heath and this interest has grown over the years which led to us having our Specialist Resource Provision (The POD) at the school.

I also have a passion for learning outdoors or classrooms with no walls and have created a Forest School with the help of my incredible team. We try to use the amazing grounds as much as possible and I love to watch children grow and become so much more confident in the natural environment.

Outside of school I am a passionate rugby supporter particularly the Welsh national team as ultimately that is where I was born and grew up as a child. I also enjoy escaping in my caravan to explore the beautiful countryside, walking with my dog!



Parley First School



Children First, Always

Everything Forest and Fun at Parley First!

We are incredibly lucky to have such an extensive outdoor learning environment at the school and have worked hard to provide a range of opportunities for our children to immerse themselves in the natural environment. We believe that all children benefit from these learning opportunities and thrive in the classroom with no walls!

Children learn how to risk assess whether it be climbing the numerous trees we have within clear guidelines of safety or whether they learn to set the fire again within clear safety guidelines they continue to develop their own interests and knowledge of the world they live in. We have a badger set on site and have worked with a number of different charities to plant trees and hedgerows to encourage the wildlife on site.

All of our children work alongside specialist teachers and support staff to experience different learning opportunities.

The pond area is home to a badger and a range of amphibians. Our infrared camera captures all of the action when the light fades!

Our resident rabbits also provide animal therapy for our children being part of the school throughout the day.



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Jo Di-Pede Head Teacher



My family moved from Bedford to Ferndown in 1987 and I attended Ferndown Upper School to do my A levels. I walked past Ferndown First School every day on my way to school.

A Music and Education Joint Honours graduate, I completed my PGCE at Exeter University.

An aspiring teacher and headteacher from the age of 5, thanks to my first headteacher Mrs Barley, my teaching career began at Summerbee Junior School in Bournemouth in 1994 before moving to Bartley Junior School in the New Forest where I worked for 8 years.

I was promoted to a Phase Leader role at Winton Primary School in 2003 and then Deputy Headship at Ferndown First in January 2005 before becoming the substantive Headteacher here in 2007.

As a first school, we are in a most privileged position, building relationships with our families well before the children start school, often first meeting the children as babies and toddlers when they accompany their older siblings to school.

It's one of my favourite aspects of our work - watching our children grow from pre-school to Year 4, seeing them learn, progress and develop their own personalities and talents. The children are such good company and there is never a day goes by when they don't make us laugh or smile. It's even more rewarding when they come back to say hello when they're older....some as parents themselves!

Primary education underpins child development and it's during their time with us that our children learn so many fundamental skills that prepare them for life, work and active citizenship. It's a huge responsibility and couldn't be achieved without the hard work and commitment of a wonderful staff team I am proud to lead.

My passion is singing and all things musical from shows, theatre and live music. When not working, I'll often be found enjoying live music at BIC and further afield....or travelling in UK and Europe, when the opportunity allows.

Ferndown First School



Ferndown First School
Where every child matters



CYCLEScheme
enables **YOU TO**
SAVE AT LEAST 25%

Castleman Academy Trust has partnered with Cyclescheme to offer a Bike to Work option for our employees at all our schools.

Cyclescheme is the simple way to get a brand new bike, make huge savings and spread the cost. Join today in 4 easy steps.

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Get the gear that suits your commute. Go for a bike, a bike and accessories, or just accessories - it's your choice.

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After 12 months, we transfer ownership to you for a one off fee.



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Gill Allen

Head Teacher

As the Headteacher at Ferndown Middle School, I consider myself to be privileged.



Our school is such a special place to work, with dedicated staff and governors. The warm welcome, the purposeful and orderly atmosphere and the engaged pupils are clearly evident throughout the school. We pride ourselves on being a happy community and believe that children come first.

In 2007 I moved, with my family, to take up the post at Ferndown Middle School. Prior to this, I was a Headteacher at a school in Bedfordshire. My route through teaching has been quite traditional with head of department, head of year and a deputy head role. With the exception of my first year of teaching, my experience has been in the middle school system. Middle schools are such an enriching place for children to learn and develop their life skills and personalities because the opportunities and resources that the young people experience in this system are exceptional.

Personal interests include, a love for sport and my initial training was in physical education. Running is a particular passion of mine, up to marathon distance; I also enjoy cycling and other activities that require hard work and aerobic capacity. On a gentler note, (when I draw breath) social history is a fascination for me, particularly visiting castles and stately homes to discover the lifestyles from different periods of time.

Joining the MAT in January 2020 has enabled Ferndown Middle School to strengthen the existing relationships with our feeder schools as well as providing the opportunity to forge new relationships with the Broadstone Schools. Each school continues to flourish as its own unique entity, at the same time the MAT is providing opportunities to work together to create an education where learning is inspirational.

Ferndown Middle School



Ferndown
Middle School

Eco Council News

We are very excited to announce that we have been awarded an Eco Schools Green Flag for our environmental work this year! The Eco Council have worked so hard this year in the topics of waste, litter and biodiversity and have made many positive changes to our school.

Eco Schools said:

We love the range of activities that you and your Eco-Committee planned for delivery, such as the introduction of a daily litter pick, pen and battery recycling schemes and making recycled bird feeders and houses. Through their hard work, your pupils have clearly made their school a greener, more welcoming and engaging environment for themselves and others to be in. Brilliant work. Congratulations to everyone for the great work you have managed to do, earning your Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

A huge well done to everybody involved - this is a fantastic achievement!

Please look out for our Green Flag which hopefully will be displayed before the end of term. We will be continuing to build upon our Eco Schools work next year.



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Dawn Wilks

Executive Head Teacher

As Executive Head of Broadstone First and Middle schools I am always kept busy but I love it.



I have been part of the Trust since January 2016 when I became Headteacher at Broadstone Middle and then became Executive Headteacher in 2018. Having an opportunity to develop and shape education and opportunities from the time children start with us until the age of 13 is an absolute privilege. Our vision at Broadstone First and Middle is to 'prepare children for a life well lived' and so we passionately look to develop the whole child. Standards and results are important but education, we believe, should be much wider than that.

Personally, I have lived in Dorset since 2005 having moved down from the London/Essex border. Having only experienced the 2 tier system (primary and secondary schools) it was a bit of a learning curve to start working in an upper school! I am really positive about the 3 tier system (First, Middle and Upper School) and believe that the experiences pupils get are unique. I initially trained as a secondary PE teacher with History as a second subject. I later took an additional qualification in PSHE and taught in Balham, South London and Dagenham. I have school experience in all year groups from Reception Year to A Levels and so have a clear understanding about what pupils need at each stage in their school career. It is so important that schools work closely together to make the journey through as stress free as possible for children.

Broadstone First & Middle Schools



BROADSTONE
FIRST SCHOOL

BROADSTONE
MIDDLE SCHOOL



We have had some very exciting developments at both Broadstone First and Middle Schools. Our dedicated site team successfully bid for capital funding from the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF), enabling some long awaited building work to be completed.

At Broadstone First School the school entrance, offices and hall have been improved. This development will provide the school a larger entrance reception area to welcome families and the hardworking school office area will be enlarged. These improvements are due to be completed by August 2022 and are progressing well. Along with these works the school hall has been given a beautiful new floor and new higher fencing has been installed.



At Broadstone Middle School the successful CIF Bid enabled the hugely important fencing project to commence, which will provide the entire 1000m perimeter of the school with higher secure fencing. This is particularly important for BMS as we share open boundaries with local heathland, therefore we can ensure that all our children are safe and secure. The project also provides the school with new pedestrian gates and automated vehicle gates.

We are delighted with all of these improvements and thank our parents and children for their patience whilst they are taking place. We are sure the long term benefits of these works will be felt by you all and future families that we welcome to our schools.



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