

Monmouth Comprehensive School Governors 2025/26

Members' Pen Portraits – 18/09/2025

Origin	Name		Pen Portraits
LA	Nicola	Allan	Lives in Monmouth with family, both children attended MCS. Headteacher of 3-19 special school in Newport since 2017. Principal Challenge Advisor with the EAS regional consortium for education improvement 2012 -2017. Senior Special Educational Needs advisor in Berkshire 2009-12. Prior to this headteacher and specialist teacher for visual impairment.
LA	Olwen	Davis	Olwen has a BSc in French and Spanish and has lived in Monmouth for 32 years. Until her retirement in 2019, she had worked at Monmouth School for Girls for 27 years. She started there as a French and Spanish teacher and, over the years, fulfilled many middle management pastoral and academic roles. She was a senior manager at the school for over 15 years and, in her last five years there, she was Deputy Head. Her passion for and commitment to education led her to study for an MA (Ed), her dissertation covering her great interest in Assessment for Learning. Olwen has two children and four grandsons and, amongst her hobbies, she includes reading and playing tennis.
LA	Tori	James-Darlington	Lives in Whitebrook and is a former MCS student. Mum of 3 (2 at MCS, another to follow). BA (Hons) Criminology, 20 years experience up to Deputy Director level in central and local government, as a permanent civil servant and now an independent Management Consultant, across Tax, Defence, Public Health and currently Cyber Security.
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Community	VACANCY		
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Community	Jamie	Powell	BSC Geography followed by hotel management training leading to over 20 years in management positions with BUPA/Spire Healthcare. Designed, built and ran the first proton beam therapy centre in the UK with Rutherford Health, and now Director of Operations with Nuffield Health. Lives in Newcastle with his wife and 4 children (last one now attending MCS).
Community	Antony	Smith	Trustee of Lyrita Nimbus Arts, Managing Director of Nimbus Records and Wyastone Estate with a portfolio covering audio and video recording, music publishing, on demand production, international sales and commercial property development. A former MCS student. I have been a school governor for sixteen years.
Community	Vicky	Smith	Solicitor following a portfolio career. Current roles include Member of the House of Commons Standards Committee, part time judge, legally qualified chair/chair for various regulatory bodies, independent member for the Ministry of Defence, independent assessor for the Student Loans Company, Adjudicator for the SRA and ad hoc legal advisor for HMCTS.
Head	Hugo	Hutchison	An experienced school leader who returned to Monmouthshire after 20 years in London, Hugo has led a number of schools prior to taking up the MCS headship, most recently as Executive Principal at Future Academies. He is a member of the Ministerial Advisory Group to Welsh Government, and chairs the Secondary Headteacher Group in Monmouthshire. Hugo is also an Estyn inspector, a National Executive member of ASCL Cymru, and the Vice Chair of the MCC Budget Forum. He has a particular interest in philosophy of education and policy development.
Parent	Paula	Doody	I live in Monmouthshire and have 3 children, my youngest attends MCS and my elder two also attended MCS. I have been a Parent governor for 9 years and I chair the Student Progression Committee. I am passionate about ensuring all young people have the opportunity to reach their potential. From a career perspective, I have extensive experience in senior HR roles and am the Founder and Director of an HR consultancy business. I have a BA (Hons) in Business Studies, am CIPD qualified and am currently studying for an MSc.
Parent	Kay	Bennett	I live near Tintern with my husband, daughter, 5 dogs & 2 horses. I have been a dog walker for many years & am also a company director of our own little business. I have an older daughter who is currently studying to be a music teacher. I've always had a huge passion for education which has led me to being chair of governors at a previous school & a parent governor now at MCS.
Parent	Ceri	Jones	I have a BSc (Hons) in Business and Legal Studies and have lived in Monmouth for 20 years. My eldest son is at MCS and my youngest is at a local primary school. My career has been diverse from teaching at HMP YOI Feltham, to Enforcement in Planning at the BBNPA, to working as a BDM in FE for several years and managing national contracts. I placed my career on hold 12 years ago to concentrate on my children and have kept myself busy with various community projects. I led the bid for Swallow Park, and still manage the project as Trustee, I have been a parent governor for 8 years in three schools, and advise local charities on funding opportunities.
Parent	Jessica	McHugh	Lives in countryside outside of Monmouth and has three children, two at MCS and one at a local primary school. A qualified solicitor for almost 20 years practising in an international law firm in Cardiff. Also a parent Governor at Cross Ash school and former chair of Cross Ash Under Fives playgroup committee.
Parent	Satinder	Smith	I live in Monmouth and have 3 children who are all currently studying at MCS. I work as a Primary School teacher in a local catchment school. I have previously been parent governor at Overmonnow Primary, Co-Chair of the PTFA and Treasurer for the Pre School Committee. Prior to becoming a parent, I worked at a non profit Science Centre as HR Director.

Parent	Kate	Williams	I live in Monmouth and have 2 children. The first is at MCS and the second is in her final years at a local primary school. I work as a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and have extensive experience working in NHS and public sector settings. I am passionate about addressing the emotional and mental well being of students and staff at MCS and to use my healthcare leadership skills to ensure that the school is an environment for all to thrive.
Staff	Sarah	Bradley	Lives in Monmouth, married with 2 daughters who previously attended MCS and 1 grand-daughter. I have been an administrator at Monmouth Comprehensive School for 25 years, previously worked at Lloyds Bank. Previously Trustee/Secretary of Friends of MCS Boat Club.
Teacher	VACANCY		
Teacher	Dorrie	Gaylard	I have been teaching at MCS since 2021.