

Wac Arts College Governing Body

John Bolt

Chair of Governors

John is a very experienced former teacher and senior manager in schools. He subsequently held a number of senior roles with a London local authority where he had responsibility for all aspects of school management and improvement.

He is also Chair of Governors at a London FE College and a member of the Association of College London Regional Committee. He lives in the neighbouring Borough of Brent.

Jill Hoffbrand

Member

Jill Hoffbrand has extensive experience in education in London – as a secondary school teacher, Headteacher, Principal Careers Officer and Chair of Governors – and the arts, drawing on a lifelong interest in music. She is a Board member of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Orchestra, and Chair of the Brook Street Band Trust. She sings with the Hampstead Chamber Choir, The Hampstead Music Club madrigal group and in a vocal trio.

Greg Arkus

Member

Greg Arkus has been involved in the financial services industry for the past 20 years in a number of senior management positions. He has a keen interest in the visual and dramatic arts with a particular interest in modern art and photography and media in general. He is involved in education and supports local and community charities applying his broad based business and financial exposure in these areas. Greg is married with 3 children and lives in North West London.

Simon Wright

Member

Simon has over 25 years experience working with young people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Simon's specialism is "informal music education". He has conceived, planned, delivered and managed a wide variety of innovative curriculum programmes for young people. He has taught music in Primary schools and worked in partnership with music hubs across the south east including, Cambridge, Essex and Hertfordshire music services.

As a music technician, Simon has been writing and producing music for over 30 years. As a musician, he perfected his stagecraft while playing live tours across the UK, Europe and Japan.

Claire Hersey

Member

Claire has worked in senior roles in school business management for several years across both secondary and primary, including academies and maintained schools. She is a chartered accountant and, before working in schools, was a senior audit manager in professional practice with a focus on the not-for-profit sector including higher education, social housing and charities.

Guy Forbat

Member

Guy Forbat is Head of Music at William Ellis School in Camden. He has a degree in Music from the University of Leeds, and an MPhil in Management from Judge Business School, University of Cambridge. He is also a University Music Subject Tutor with Canterbury Christ Church University, delivering teacher training to Teach First Music participants. He enjoys playing in big bands and concert bands in and around London.

Laura Thackaberry

Member

Laura is the Assistant Head Teacher at Stormont House School and is also a member of the HLT 14-19 Teaching and Learning team for Hackney Learning Trust. Laura has teaching and management experience working in a number of different educational settings within Newham, Hackney and Havering. These include PRUs, Alternative Education Provider Centres, Mainstream and Special Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges. Laura's key role within these educational settings has been to support with the creation and implementation of an appropriate curriculum offer for disaffected young people and those with SEND. Laura has also taken a supporting role to create partnerships between Secondary Schools and Colleges within Hackney, to ensure that sub level 2 learners maximise their access to further their education.

Liz Cleaver

Member

Following an extensive career at the BBC including 12 years as a senior executive and as a BAFTA award winning producer, Liz has wide-ranging experience of programme making, commissioning, strategy, implementation and change management. She was instrumental in launching BBC Knowledge, the forerunner of BBC 4, setting up the interactive capability for all factual and learning programmes and as Controller, BBC Learning, responsibility for the BBC's learning output and activity.

Having left the BBC in 2010 she now works as a digital media consultant, and is also involved with several charities including; Chair of The Reading Agency and a Trustee of Historic Royal Palaces, The Royal Free Charity and Crisis. Liz is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a passionate history buff and traveller and is dedicated to helping disadvantaged communities and individuals.

James Fornara

Staff Governor (Principal)

James is the Principal of Wac Arts College.

He trained as a drama teacher at the Welsh College of Music and Drama and has had extensive experience in a wide variety of schools in the 15 years he has been teaching. His previous role was Headteacher for the Pupil Parent Partnership Community School, an alternative education provider based in west London that provides specialist education and therapeutic support services to marginalised and socially excluded learners. He successfully steered the school through registration with the DfE and their first OFSTED inspection. James is also an avid DJ and music producer.

Celia Greenwood

Staff Governor

Celia Greenwood has worked in arts education for thirty years, first as head of Dance and Drama in a London comprehensive school and then developing arts and media programmes for young people. Co-founder and former CEO of Wac. She was on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Policy Action Team for Sports and Arts and has spoken extensively at national and international conferences as an advocate for youth arts and the arts as an entitlement for every young person.

Itricia Byer

Parent Governor

Emma Prinsley

Parent Governor