



Nurturing and inspiring all children to achieve their best

17th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Local Academy Committee (LAC) are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school in roles involving: strategy, policy, safeguarding and staffing. They enable the school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children. As we have had many new members added to our LAC recently, I would like to introduce them to you all.

Emily Skidmore

I started my career training to be a teacher before moving into delivering national assessments, like SATs. I've spent the last 18 years working for the Department for Education and now design and deliver digital services for schools.

I became a LAC member to better understand the whole school context and to help the school give local children the best start in life.

Jo Withers

I began my career in the hairdressing industry, where, through our own training, I discovered a passion for helping others learn and grow. That passion led me into further education over 25 years ago, where I've built a rewarding career as both an educator and a leader.

I've served as Principal of Harrow College and now work as Chief of Business Strategy for the Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge College Group, developing partnerships that create new opportunities for learners locally and internationally.

As a resident local to Chesham, I'm passionate about supporting our local schools and helping to ensure the children have the best start in their primary years to gain confidence, skills and an ambition to achieve their full potential so they can thrive as they grow.

James Hobday

Thank you for welcoming me to be part of the LAC. I am a local father of 2 from Chesham and a Police Officer in the Metropolitan Police. Within the LAC, my responsibility is for Safeguarding. My job will be to work closely with the DSL to ensure the safety of your children whilst in our care. I will bring my wealth of knowledge from my professional background to the role and hope to assist the school and local community where possible.

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Claire Flynn

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Daniel Peat

I am an RAF Officer with a background in Air Operations Command and Control. Prior to joining the armed forces I worked in HR and project management, and I will hopefully be able to use the skills I have gained in both civilian and military life to support the school in any way I can. I have been around and involved in education my whole life with both of my parents working in the education sector. As a result, I have seen first-hand the importance a good education on children's lives. I have taken on this role to support Mrs Flynn and her team in delivering the best education possible for the children of Ivingswood Academy.

Louise Hayday

As a newly appointed member of the Local Academy Committee (LAC), I'm honoured to have the opportunity to support our school community and help shape its future. I've lived in Chesham for 21 years, raising my children in the town and now watching my daughter raise her own family here. I'm proud to have grandchildren attending the school, which makes this role especially meaningful to me.

Professionally, I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Chesham Town Council—a role I truly enjoy for its variety and the opportunity to positively influence the future of our town. I'm passionate about making Chesham a better place for everyone who calls it home.

I'm looking forward to working alongside the dedicated staff and fellow LAC members, contributing to the strategic direction of the school and ensuring we remain focused on what's best for our pupils.

Charlotte Newnes

I have been a primary school teacher now for almost 13 years and have a keen interest in the running of a school from a strategic point of view. Since joining Ivingswood's Local Academy Committee (around 3 years ago), I have enjoyed learning more about the school and supporting from behind the scenes.

Our LAC members visit the school each term and meet half-termly with me and Miss Garlick. They are invited to our social events and therefore you may meet some of them at school. If you wish to speak to the LAC, you can contact them on chair@ivingswoodacademy.org

Mrs C Flynn
Head of School