



Howard Primary School

09-12-2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Voting Arrangements - Parent Governor Elections

The role of a school governor is extremely important and many essential decisions about this school are taken by our Governing Board. School Governors work together with the school leadership team to continually improve the education for every child at our school. Our school governors have 3 core functions. They:

1. Ensure the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of our school;
2. Hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of our school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Oversee the financial performance of our school and make sure its money is well spent.

I have received nominations from three parents who are willing to become school governors. I hope you will vote in this election to select a new parent governor for Howard Primary School. The new governor will serve for 4 years.

I enclose the personal statements from the candidates for your information. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be able to provide paper ballots for voting. Instead, voting will take place online via Survey Monkey. **You can access the Survey Monkey voting site here:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CXYMDFK>



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Please read the personal statements carefully and bearing in mind the role of the school governor, please vote for only one person. You will be able to complete the survey only once. All votes will be anonymous. Please note that you have only 1 vote in total even if you have more than one child at the school.

The Survey Monkey site will automatically close at 10.00am on Wednesday 16th December so please ensure that you visit the site and cast your vote before the deadline.

Votes will be counted on Wednesday 16th December and the result will be announced as soon as possible.

Your vote is extremely important to us and it will help shape the Governing Body which plays a key role in the decision making of the school.

Yours sincerely

Miss J De Saulles

Headteacher

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CANDIDATE 1 – ABDUL BASIT SYED

I am a British Indian Peace Activist, Writer and Entrepreneur. I am the Founder Chairman of an International NGO World Humanitarian Drive (WHD). Globally I have been accredited with number of Peace, Education, and Trade Harmony initiatives. I was honoured as “International Ambassador” of Croydon, by the Croydon Mayor in 2019. I have always been motivated to do something inspiring to support my Croydon community being a Global Peace Activist. I find Howard Primary as a very good school where there are a lot of good things happening always, my three children’s are studying here. The staff and teachers are brilliant and the children are lovely.

Since few years I’ve gained more knowledge of how the school operates and I’ve experienced first-hand challenges the school is facing like many other schools around Croydon. I am confident my gained insights from different sectors and my skills can transfer across into a positive contribution in the development of the school.

The ability to be able to stand up to the challenge and positively contribute is a key skill I’ve developed over the years. This I feel as a chance for me to make a difference to many children, as I’ve enjoyed my time at school and I’d like every child to benefit from a good school experience to make going to school enjoyable and impactful.

I have worked in different companies and International NGO’s as the senior board of director. I’ll be able to bring my analytical skills and high degree of accountability onto the governing board. I will ensure we’ll look at the wider implications of our decisions and consider the reasons behind what we’re doing and the actions we’re taking.

There’s no better feeling of satisfaction than getting to the end of the year and seeing all kids including mine are safe, they’ve done well, and they’re enjoying school. For me, that’s why being a governor is such a worthwhile thing to do.



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CANDIDATE 2 – ABRAHAM GLOVER

I would like to become a parent governor as I would like to become a part of the community and Howard is a school that is long standing and connected to Croydon and I want to be a part of it. I have skills to offer as a Chartered Engineer (Information Systems and Software Engineering) and a Chartered IT Professional which gives me a large and accredited skillset in relation to technology in business. I have also got a wealth of experience of within higher and further education where I worked in various roles and managed the delivery of virtual learning environments at UCL I was the service manager for all media resources, online and live events and lectures. I worked at Coventry University London Campus where I oversaw the management of the IT provision, the AV class room design to deliver a blended learning experience and general support, at Alperton Community School I began as a student support officer and later became a curriculum resource assistant for media studies and IT where I supported teaching & learning. Finally, I was a co-opted governor at Davidson Primary School for a brief period prior to its academisation.

In my current position I am working strategically creating technology strategies and working with the governance level of the business, I have also joined a non-executive director network where I have been engaging in a lot of CPD to improve my coaching skills and understanding of good governance.

Please feel free to review my LinkedIn page at: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/abrahamglover/>



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CANDIDATE 3 – FAAIZA AHMED

Watching my two sons (in year two and Reception) flourish and overcome their own personal hurdles since starting at Howard Primary School has been one of the greatest joys of my life. Like all parents, my children's happiness and future is of upmost importance to me. I would therefore be delighted to be given the opportunity to contribute to making a positive and long-lasting difference to our school, and believe my professional experiences can support this.

After starting a family, I undertook a career change to work as a communications professional, using my digital skills to help organisations navigate the online worlds of social media and website design. Most recently I have worked for Croydon Council, leading the borough's environmental efforts and COVID-19 safety drive. This summer I had the pleasure of working with two wonderful Howard Primary School pupils to create an anti-littering video. The pair were great ambassadors for the school while the video was widely liked and shared across Croydon's social media channels.

I am due to begin a new role as Senior Communications Manager at the Cabinet Office in the new year, however if I were to be elected as governor, I would use my close local ties to help the school further enhance its profile and reputation. I can also assist and advise on the following:

- Creating and managing social media channels
- Writing newsletters to parents
- Developing and building on the current website

While those are the practical skills I can offer, I would also like to offer my support to any parents who have struggled with the challenges of the pandemic. In my conversations with fellow parents of young children, I believe there is a heavy burden on parents right now. I know first-hand how this is not an easy task. If elected, I would like to foster an open and non-Judgemental space for parents to offload their own worries and anxieties. I believe happy parents result in happy children so we need to look after ourselves too.

Thank you for your time and I hope to receive your support!



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