



BACKGROUND, DUTIES AND COMMITMENT

Could you contribute to the Board (Governing body) of Barnsley College using your skills and experience to improve the success of the college in its community?

Would you consider becoming a Board member (Governor) at the College? Or a co-opted member of a Committee?

The Governing Body needs governors who can bring a variety of skills, experience and knowledge to build on the successes of recent years. Alongside Board members, we sometimes also need people who are willing to act as specialised advisors to the Board by serving as a co-opted member (a co-optee) on one of the Board's Committees.

Legal status

Barnsley College is an independent further education (FE) corporation, established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (the Act). The college is administered under the Instrument and Articles of Government which are statutory instruments made under the Act and which set out the rules for the constitution and operation of the corporation and the machinery for college decision-making. Within the parameters set by the Instrument of Government, the college is able to determine its own maximum number and composition of members – we are currently operating with a maximum membership of 18. The current composition provides for the appointment of 2 staff members and 2 student members. The principal is an ex-officio member of the board. When selecting people for appointment as Board members (governors), the Board aims to achieve a skills mix which is designed to maximise its overall effectiveness.

College main sites

The college's main building (opened in September 2011) is at Old Mill Lane/Church Street. The Scitech Centre, the Electric Theatre and the STEM Centre on Old Mill lane are all within 100 metres walking distance. The Church Street building in the town centre is also part of the college estate.

Our other town centre buildings are clustered on the Honeywell site about 400metres walk from the main college building. The Sports Village at Honeywell (built in 2008) was extended in 2014 with additional classrooms. An additional separate sports hall and fitness center open to the public was also completed in 2014. Also on the Honeywell site is the Think Low Carbon construction centre completed in 2011 and the recently constructed £11m construction centre 'The Cube', completed in September 2015. Barnsley Sixth Form College is the most recent new build, opening in January 2016, adjacent to the Town Hall.

The college also runs Wigfield Farm, set in Worsborough Country Park, as a teaching space for animal care and horticulture students and as a visitor centre open to the general public. New classrooms and animal enclosures were completed at the farm in 2014.

Role of the governor

The Board sets the strategic direction of the college and monitors its performance in respect of quality, finance and business development. The work of the Board in maintaining improvements in quality, teaching, learning and assessment, achievement and participation is central to our success. It appoints people from the public sector, private industry and the community and voluntary sectors, whose knowledge and expertise can be applied effectively to help improve the Board's performance. Governors work together on the Board in a voluntary capacity to ensure that the college continues to meet the needs of the community it serves.

Time commitment

There are ten Board meetings in each academic year that start at 4 pm and last 2-3 hours, depending on the agenda, these alternate between formal and creative sessions. There is also an annual 1½ day strategic seminar (all day Friday plus Saturday morning). In addition to Board meetings, governors serve on at least one of the committees of the Board. The committees normally meet between two and four times per year with a usual start time of 4 pm.

A supported programme of governor training and development is available throughout the year, linked wherever possible to the existing time commitment of governors, such as a brief development session at the start of a board or committee meeting. The college is keen to keep the time commitment to a minimum to recognise people's family and work commitments. Meetings are usually held at the main Old Mill Lane site.

A key commitment of the role is to ensure statutory and regulatory duties are met in respect of Safeguarding, Prevent, Health and Safety, Equality and Diversity, and Special Educational Needs. Governors with these specific skills or background act in a lead monitoring capacity to provide additional assurance to the Board that the College and the Board is meeting its obligations in these areas. Two link visits per year are made.

The Board has the following Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Governance and Search Committee
- Remuneration Committee

The Audit Committee meets four times a year, with meetings starting at 4pm. The Remuneration Committee meets twice a year to consider the pay and conditions of staff senior post holders within the college and the Governance and Search Committee meets three times a year to deal with recruitment and selection of new governors and governance matters. Most of the committee meetings last from one to two hours.

Appointment Process

Applications are made by completion of an application form, available from the college's website. Applications to become a governor or co-optee are considered by the Governance and Search Committee and prospective governors and co-optees are invited to attend a short interview with a panel of Governors.

Governors are appointed initially for a term of one to four years and are eligible for re-appointment at the end of their first term. Reappointment is subject to review by the Governance and Search Committee and is based on skills needs, experience, contribution and attendance.

Training, Development and Support

On appointment, training and full support is provided to all governors. The induction programme is aimed to support governors in their new role and to help them understand the college, its organisation structure and the strategic responsibilities they have as individuals and collectively as a Board. The programme is tailored to meet individual interests and specialisms to allow new members to contribute quickly in applying their experience and knowledge to support the board.

The role of Board member is a voluntary positions and is unpaid. However, expenses incurred as a result of attending meetings or other costs connected with the role are reimbursed, including the cost of travel and childcare, if required.

We aim to establish a contact list of people interested in becoming a Board member when vacancies arise. If you feel that you could contribute to the college's continuing success, we would like to hear from you. The college is deeply committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all groups of the community.

You can obtain more information about the work and success of the college on www.barnsley.ac.uk and in the Governance section.

For further information or an informal chat, please do not hesitate to contact:

Heather Jackson – Director of Governance and Clerk to the Board
Barnsley College
PO Box 266
Church Street
Barnsley
S70 2YW
Tel 01226 216416
Email: h.jackson@barnsley.ac.uk