



## Diverse Academies *Learning Partnership*



### **John Rolph – Member and Trustee of Diverse Academies Trust and Trustee on the DALP Board**

My wife and I have recently relocated to Retford, having lived in Laxton, near Tuxford, for the past 21 years.

I am a Mathematics graduate from Manchester University and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA). I was also a Fellow of the Institute of Management (FIM) until my retirement.

I qualified in the London office of Touche Ross & Co (now Deloitte) and progressed to Senior Manager before leaving to join a client company, Sandell Perkins, as Finance Director. The company was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1986 and subsequently acquired Travis & Arnold, another listed PLC, to form the present day FTSE 100 Group, Travis Perkins. In 1991 I was recruited by Sir Lewis Robertson, a renowned 'Company Doctor' as Finance Director of the Lilley Plc, based in Glasgow, to try to restructure and refinance the ailing international construction, housing and property development group.

Using my Corporate Finance skills, I acted as a consultant to Ennemix Ltd, a sand and gravel extraction company in financial difficulty. The company was restructured and listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1995 and I remained as finance director prior to its sale to Lafarge.

In 1996 I joined McNicholas Plc as Finance & Human Resources Director. The group had a number of subsidiary companies involved in construction, demolition and utility maintenance contracts. My role was to restructure the group under a new holding company with divisions specialising in providing services to utility groups. The group was eventually sold to Skanska.

My Corporate background has proved extremely useful in the past few years during which we have completely overhauled the system of Management and Governance within the Multi Academy Trust. Having served as a Governor at Tuxford School and as the Chair of Governors during the time it has been an Academy, I have now handed over that responsibility and I chair the Board of Trustees for Diverse Academies Trust (DAT) and for the Diverse Academies Learning Partnership (DALP), the umbrella organisation.

My principal hobby is bridge. I play regularly at Retford Bridge Club and I represent Nottinghamshire in inter county events.



**Margaret Blore – Member and Director of Diverse Academies Trust and Trustee on the DALP Board**

Most of my life has been centred on education. I taught for 37 years in Newark area secondary schools, holding a variety of posts. I was chair of governors at our local primary school for 34 years and a governor at Tuxford Academy for 7 years, during which time I was involved in the development of DALP and DAT. I feel very fortunate to be a member and trustee for this organisation which has such important work to do.

Agriculture is the other main experience of my life. I grew up on our family farm and am delighted that we still have a dairy farming partnership on this same farm involving my husband, my son and myself.

My daughter and family live in Sydney which has facilitated exceptional travel experiences and now we get involved with our two grandchildren and their wide ranging Australian activities, including an insight into their education.

I love my garden, I enjoy creative cooking, I am an enthusiastic visitor to the many beautiful and historic places in our own country but I do not have time to read for pleasure as much as I would like.



**Sarah Hall –Director of Diverse Academies Trust and Trustee on the DALP Board**

I am a non-executive chair of Shine Creative Solutions, a start-up partnership and promotional marketing agency as well as sitting as a Trustee in the charity sector.

From 2011 to 2014 I was MD of Dewynters Ltd, a leading marketing services agency specialising in entertainment and live events as well as being COO of its AiM listed parent r4e plc. For several years prior to that I advised media, broking, fund management businesses and charities, as an independent consultant in the UK and Asia on a variety of projects around operational structuring, strategic reviews and succession planning.

I previously held senior roles in the Private Client Wealth Management and Securities divisions at Ingenious Media. Before that I was a Managing Director at the securities brokerage CLSA in New York and London, and at James Capel (now HSBC Securities) in Hong Kong, London and New York working initially as a research analyst and latterly in equity research sales before moving into management roles.

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Touche Ross (now Deloitte) and worked with KPMG in Hong Kong and I am a graduate of Newcastle University.

I sit on the Board of Trustees of Battersea Arts Centre where I chair the Finance Committee; am also a Trustee of New Perspectives, an East Midlands based regional touring theatre company and I am a member of its Finance Committee.

I also sat on the Board of Trustees, and the finance board, of London's Young Vic Theatre for 9 years; on the advisory board of the Business School of Newcastle University for two years; and as a Trustee of The Friends of Kipkelion, a UK based charity supporting infrastructure projects in water and education in Kenya for 6 years.



**Mike Quigley - Director of Diverse Academies Trust and Trustee on the DALP Board. Chair of Governors at Retford Oaks Academy**

I am a retired company director and have been a school governor at various schools for over 30 years. I have served as a local councillor for more than 20 years and am involved in a number of local charities including being Chairman of the Trustees of Bassetlaw Hospice. I have been chair of governors at Retford Oaks since September 2014



**John Dickens – Chair of Governors at East Leake Academy and Chairs of Local Academy Board Representative on the DALP Board**

I became a governor in 2012 and took on the role of Chair in June 2014. I worked in professional practice for 11 years as a Chartered Civil Engineer specialising in the design and maintenance of highway bridges. I moved to East Leake in 1981 when I secured a post at Loughborough University as a Lecturer in Structural Engineering. My work has included the structural conservation of dry-stone wall structures at the Great Zimbabwe World Heritage site in Zimbabwe, structural assessment of aluminium framed temporary structures and the design of structures in the West Indies for hurricane and seismic loading. From the late 1990s my work focussed on Engineering Education. As Associate Dean I was responsible for all aspects of teaching quality assurance in the Engineering Faculty. I was Director of the Higher Education Academy Engineering Subject Centre, which provided support for enhancing learning & teaching across the UK and also Director of Loughborough's own Centre for Excellence in Engineering Education. I retired from my full time post as Professor of Engineering Education in 2010 but continued teaching part-time until 2014. My three children were educated in the village at Brookside School and Harry Carlton and their education provided a sound basis for the paths they have pursued. It is my aim, and that of the Board of Governors, that East Leake Academy provides the best possible educational experience for all its students, and we work closely with the Principal and her senior staff to strive for improvement in all aspects of the schools performance.



**Kathryn Mitford- Chair of Governors at National Church of England Academy and a Director/Trustee. A member/vice-chair of the DALP Board**

I have been a governor for 13 years, firstly at Hucknall National Primary until 2008, and I joined the Academy governing body in 2007. I became vice Chair in 2009 and then Chair in 2010. I have worked closely with the Leadership Team at National and the executives of DALP as we formed a partnership.

I also along with my sister run a local business. We have been in business for 24 years and I feel this has given me a range of skills that are useful.



**Kirsty Cowley – Vice Chair of Governors at National Church of England Academy and a Director/Trustee. A member of the DALP Board**

I am married to Greg and have two children Tim and Phoebe. I was a family solicitor for 17 years but now work for the Church of England [Southwell and Nottingham DBF] as a Deanery administrator. I am also a Licensed Lay Minister at St Mark's Church in Bestwood Village