Newton Road
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M41 5UG

Email: office@urmstongrammar.org.uk
Website: www.urmstongrammar.org.uk
Headteacher: Mr T Kennedy-Fowler

Urmston Grammar School

5th October 2026

Re: Election of Parent Governors

Dear Parents & Carers

Further to our recent letter requesting nominations for parent governors, the closing date for nominations was Monday 5th October at 12 noon. We have received seven nominations for the two parent governor positions, and as the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, a ballot will now be necessary. Each of the candidates has prepared a personal statement and these are included below to help you decide who to vote for.

As there are two vacancies, every parent and carer of an Urmston Grammar student is eligible to cast two votes; one for the Curriculum & Personnel Committee and one for the Finance & Premises Committee.

We are using Microsoft Forms to complete the ballot. Please use this link Parent Governor Ballot 2026 to cast your votes. Only eligible parents, that is any parent or person having parental responsibility for or who has care of a registered pupil at the school at the time of the election, are permitted to vote. All votes will be checked to ensure that the name of the parent/carer voting and the name of their child match the details on our school roll and to ensure that no parent/carer casts more than one vote. All ballots will then be anonymised and securely stored before the votes are tallied.

Ballot papers must be completed and submitted by **5pm on Wednesday 14th October 2026**. The ballot votes will then be counted in the Headteacher's Office at 10am on Thursday 15th October 2026. The candidates are invited to attend the count if they wish.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Kennedy-Fowler
Headteacher

Mr N Crowther
Chair of Governors

Nominee Personal Statements

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Imran Arshad - Finance and Premises Committee

I am putting myself forward for the Parent Governor vacancy on the Finance & Premises Committee as I believe my professional background, skills, and commitment to Urmston Grammar will allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the Governing Board. I am an Audit Senior Manager in one of the top 5 Accountancy firm with extensive experience in financial oversight, risk management, strategic planning, and governance. My role requires me to review complex financial information, challenge assumptions constructively, ensure compliance with regulatory frameworks, and support organisations in making sound, well-evidenced decisions. These are the same skills required of an effective Governor, particularly within the Finance & Premises Committee.

I have over a decade of experience working with senior leadership teams, reviewing budgets, assessing financial controls, and evaluating long-term investment and operational plans. I am confident analysing financial reports, identifying risks, and ensuring that resources are used efficiently and responsibly. I also have experience working with property-related expenditure, capital projects, and premises compliance, which aligns well with the committee's remit.

As a parent, I am deeply invested in the continued success of Urmston Grammar and the opportunities it provides for all students. I am committed to attending training, engaging fully with the responsibilities of the role, and supporting the school's vision through constructive challenge and informed decision-making. I aim to bring a balanced, professional, and collaborative approach to the Governing Board and contribute positively to the future development of the school.

Mrs Laura Hickford - Curriculum and Personnel Committee

I would like to put myself forward for the Parent Governor vacancy on the Curriculum & Personnel Committee.
I run my Health & Safety consultancy, supporting businesses with governance, compliance, policies, training, competence and risk management. My role requires me to review information critically, understand how systems work in practice, ask constructive questions and ensure decisions are supported by evidence. I am comfortable reviewing policies, data and performance information, but I am equally interested in whether arrangements are achieving what they were intended to achieve.

What interests me about this role is the opportunity to understand how decisions around curriculum, staffing, support and school improvement translate into outcomes for pupils. I would want to look beyond policies and headline figures to understand what is working well, where challenges remain and how the school measures impact.
Being self-employed gives me flexibility within my working week, allowing me to commit the time needed for meetings, school visits and Governor training. I enjoy learning and tend to immerse myself in new subjects, so I would welcome the opportunity to develop my knowledge of school governance, curriculum and educational performance.
I would contribute a practical, evidence-based perspective and take an active interest in the areas allocated to me. I am naturally curious and enjoy asking questions, exploring issues in depth and following the evidence wherever it leads. I like to understand not just what is being done, but why, and whether it is achieving the intended result, while contributing constructively to discussions and decisions.

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Anju Mehta - Finance and Premises AND Curriculum and Personnel Committee

I am pleased to put myself forward for the role of School Governor. As a parent, I have a keen interest in supporting the school's continued development and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically, socially and personally.

I bring nearly 30 years of experience in the technology (IT, AI, Edge Computing) and consulting industry, including leadership roles in large, complex transformation programmes, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and business governance. My professional experience has involved working with diverse teams, balancing competing priorities, making informed decisions and driving continuous improvement.

I believe these skills are highly relevant to school governance, particularly in providing strategic oversight, supporting school leadership, evaluating priorities and ensuring that decisions are focused on students' long-term success. I also bring a strong interest in technology and innovation, including the responsible use of AI to enhance learning and prepare young people for the future.

As a parent, I understand the importance of a supportive, inclusive and engaging school environment. If elected, I would bring a collaborative, thoughtful and committed approach to the role, listen to the views of parents, and contribute constructively to the school's strategic direction and the wider school community.
I would be honoured to serve as a Governor and help the school continue to provide the best possible opportunities for all its students.

Angela Lee - Finance and Premises AND Curriculum and Personnel Committee

As a parent, I am passionate about helping young people achieve their full potential and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. I would be honoured to serve as a Parent Governor at Urmston Grammar and contribute to its continued success.

I bring over 30 years of experience in leadership roles across a range of universities, where I have worked extensively to improve educational outcomes, promote equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), and identify and address barriers to student success. Throughout my career, I have championed initiatives that enhance access, participation, belonging and achievement, ensuring that all learners have the opportunity to thrive. I have led strategic projects focused on creating inclusive learning environments, reducing inequalities and supporting underrepresented groups. In addition, I have published research in these areas, giving me a strong understanding of the evidence, challenges and best practices that can help students reach their potential.

My professional experience has developed my skills in governance, strategic planning, constructive challenge, communication and collaboration. I understand the importance of accountability, effective decision-making and ensuring that policies and practices are inclusive, equitable and focused on the best interests of students.
As both a parent and an educational leader, I am committed to supporting the school's vision and values, representing the views of parents, and working collaboratively with governors and school leaders. I would be proud to contribute my experience, insight and enthusiasm to help Urmston Grammar continue to provide an outstanding education and supportive environment where all students can succeed.

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Dr Nurul Alam - Finance and Premises AND Curriculum and Personnel Committee

I am Dr Nurul Alam, a nanotechnologist with a PhD from the University of Nottingham and over 26 years of experience across academia, materials, chemicals, and environmental sectors. My academic career includes positions at the universities of Nottingham, Cambridge, and Manchester, and I have contributed to industries including defence, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, food and beverage, mining, medical devices, and household chemicals. My professional qualifications include Chartered Engineer (CEng), Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), Chartered Chemist (CChem), Chartered Scientist (CSci), Chartered Manager (CMgr), and European Chemist (EurChem), as well as multiple professional training and academic courses. I am honoured to hold fellowships with the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (FIMMM), and the Chartered Management Institute (FCMI). From 2019 to 2025, I served two terms as a Governor at Alderman Bolton Primary School in Warrington, with responsibilities for safeguarding, curriculum, and health and safety. During that time, I completed numerous courses through Ofsted, the local council, and government agencies, gaining important insights and skills, further enhanced by my perspective as a parent. I am devoted to challenging and supporting the school and its exceptional senior leadership team as we pursue excellence. I am passionate about fostering the continual development of students of all ages and believe that a positive, holistic educational experience lays the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. Above all, I am devoted to supporting children's growth by working collaboratively with the school and governing body to create a meaningful and lasting impact.

Nina Tonge - Finance and Premises Committee

I would like to join the Governing Board because I have a genuine interest in the school and want to help make sure that all children have the support and opportunities they need to do well and enjoy their time at school.
I have over 25 years' experience working in accounting teams in a variety of roles and am currently an Associate Director of Accounts Payable. My career has given me strong skills in financial management, accountability, problem-solving, attention to detail and working with different people. I believe these skills would be useful to the Governing Board.

I also have seven years' experience as a Parent Governor at my daughter's primary school. This gave me a good understanding of what being a Governor involves, including working with other Governors and school leaders, asking questions, providing appropriate challenge and always keeping the interests and welfare of the children at the centre of decisions.

I am willing to commit the time needed to take an active role on the Governing Board and to get involved in the wider work of the school. I am also happy to undertake any training needed to develop my knowledge and skills and become an effective Governor.

I hope to bring my professional experience, previous governance experience and commitment to children and the school community to the Board, and to play a positive part in supporting the school's future.

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Delim Hussain - Finance and Premises AND Curriculum and Personnel Committee

I am pleased to nominate myself for the position of Parent Governor and express my strong interest in the school and the welfare of the children.

My current role in the higher education sector (at one of the universities in Manchester as Innovation Manager), linking academic and industry partners, has put me in the best position to apply for this role, where my capability and skill level will be translated to the secondary education sector to shape the school's strategic direction and ensure accountability for educational performance and financial management.
In addition, I have served as a trustee board member of a Greater Manchester-based charity with approximately 1,500 members. In this role, I have contributed to setting strategic direction, supporting sustainable growth & skill development, overseeing governance responsibilities, and helping secure funding through competitive grant programmes. This experience has strengthened my ability to make balanced, evidence-based decisions.

I will work collaboratively with fellow governors, school leaders, staff, parents, and students to support and constructively challenge the school in pursuit of its goals. I believe my engineering background, which encourages systems thinking and problem-solving, together with my MBA, which provides strong business and financial insight, will enable me to contribute effectively across a wide range of strategic issues. These include maintaining educational excellence in a challenging financial environment, supporting an ambitious and future-focused curriculum, promoting staff development and wellbeing, and helping the school respond successfully to changing educational policies and opportunities.

Following a discussion with the Head Teacher, I have gained a clear understanding of the responsibilities and commitment required of a parent governor. I am fully prepared to dedicate the necessary time and effort, undertake all required training, and actively contribute to the effective governance of the school. Living within close proximity (1.4 miles) to the school also enables me to be accessible and engaged in non-routine school activities when needed. I would be honoured to serve the school community, ensuring the vision and ethos are well established and that the school works efficiently and effectively.
Thank you for your consideration and support.