



COTSWOLD BEACON
ACADEMY TRUST

CBAT has a new Chair of Trustees

Trustees of CBAT are pleased to announce that we have a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Trust following a meeting earlier this week.

The appointment of Chris Brierley as the new Chair and ratification of Ruth Hollier as Vice Chair follows the stepping down of Nigel Riglar from the Trust Board at the end of August.

After over 12 years of service and as his current term of office was up, outgoing chair Nigel Riglar has taken the difficult decision to leave the CBAT Trust Board. Nigel says he feels this is an opportune time to seek a better balance between personal and professional commitments. He's worked tirelessly for Marling/CBAT over the years, joining Marling in 2012 as a governor, quickly becoming the Chair to the Governing Body - a role which he continued to perform until 2020. During this period, Nigel also worked with Stuart Wilson to found CBAT in 2016 and has been the Chair of Trustees since its inception.

Nigel has been a vital member of CBAT governance over the years, which he describes as 'one of the most rewarding experiences of my life... contributing to the educational excellence that we have all strived to uphold'.

Incoming Chair Chris Brierley said, "We'd like to thank Nigel for all his time, commitment and support throughout all the highs and lows of Trust governance over the last decade. Nigel has been passionate about the work of the Trust and our Schools and we wish him well!"

The new Chair of the Trust, Chris Brierley, joined the Board last year and is the Senior Stakeholder & Impact Advisor working at the Energy Systems Catapult (ESC), which is an independent, not-for-profit organisation aimed at bridging the gap between industry, government, academia and research. He brings with him a wealth of communications and engagement experience from a variety of backgrounds. He has over two decades of experience in both the public and private sector working with and influencing key stakeholders from MPs and Chief Executives to key community leaders. These skills have been developed through a number of roles; from being a talented multimedia broadcaster with the BBC for over a decade, to his 4 and a half year stint as Gloucestershire's first Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner. In 2020 Chris completed the Institute of Directors Certificate in Company Direction which covered finance, governance, leadership and strategy. This has helped him, especially in his Non-Executive roles which have included supporting a Women's refuge and a charity aimed at tackling fuel poverty. He's a passionate believer in working collaboratively with individuals and organisations to deliver real change to the wellbeing of communities and society. He also a father of two small children and lives in Stonehouse.

Ruth Holler joined the CBAT board in 2020 and has been instrumental recently working with Callowell School. She is a senior lecturer in Education at the University of Gloucestershire having joined the Primary Education Team in October 2013. Before that she had a rewarding career as a primary school teacher and Deputy Head. Passionate about education and in particular Maths, she has co-authored a chapter on promoting classroom talk to develop mathematical reasoning in our publication "Teaching the Primary Curriculum". And has been recognised as a University Teaching Fellow because of the wide range and impact of her work.

I hope you will join the Trustees and Members in wishing Nigel well, welcoming Chris to his new role and the confirmation of Ruth as Vice Chair.

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