

College Corporation Team

Stuart Rimmer

CEO / Principal

Stuart became the first Chief Executive and Principal of East Coast College in 2017, having joined Great Yarmouth College four years before as Principal and Chief Executive Officer. Stuart has overseen the College through two mergers in 2017 and 2018, whilst completing significant college strategic redevelopment, and leading the College through a period of transition and quality and financial recovery. Stuart holds a first degree, teaching post grad, a master's degree in Enterprise Management, MBA and Post Grad in Executive Coaching. Stuart sits on the New Anglia LEP Skills Advisory Panel and GY Chamber of Commerce. A passionate advocate of staff and student wellbeing and good mental health, he chairs the Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy Group, is part of the DfE Expert Advisory Panel and has recently conducted research for FEIL. He contributes regularly to the Times Education Supplement on matters relating to education and leadership. Stuart also runs his own performance coaching practice, working with commercial sector executives to improve performance. He has a lovely Labrador called Murphy who can occasionally be seen around campus.

Rob Evans

Independent Governor and Chair

Rob is a member of the East Coast College Board and was Chair of Governors at Great Yarmouth College from 2013 – 2017. Rob is currently Interim Chair, a member of the Quality and Standards and Governance Remuneration and Search Committees and the Governor link on the HE Quality Group.

Rob played an active and integral part in the Area Review and subsequent merger process that created East Coast College. Rob was educated at the City of Norwich School and following a first degree went on to take an MA followed by a research degree (both in Philosophy). Rob retired as Deputy Registrar and Secretary of the University of East Anglia in 2011. Rob is experienced in establishing partnership working and was very heavily involved in the establishment of University Campus Suffolk and provided advice in connection with its successful bid for taught degree awarding powers and university status as the University of Suffolk.

Wendy Stanger

Director of Governance

Wendy is Director of Governance at East Coast College. She was formerly Head of Governance at Great Yarmouth College. Wendy acted as Clerk to the Shadow Board and East Coast College Designate Board and oversaw all the legal requirements for the establishment of East Coast College and the subsequent merger with Lowestoft Sixth Form. Wendy has worked for the public sector in various roles including Local Government, Health Service and HM Customs and Excise. Wendy has BA (Hon) in Politics and Law, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management, is an Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and was a Corporate member of the Institute of Housing. Wendy was awarded IC SA Governance Professional of the Year in 2019.

Roger Cracknell

Independent Governor, Vice Chair & Chair of Curriculum Development Committee

Roger joined the L6FC board in 2012 and joined the ECC Board On merger as Vice Chair. He is a member of the Quality and Standards Committee, Curriculum Development Committee and the Governor link on the L6FC Quality Group. Roger has a B.Ed. (Lond) (First Class Hons) and Cert. Ed; M.A (Lond); Advanced Diploma Educational Management (O.U). Roger taught in primary and secondary schools and then taught Geography and became Head of Department, at Itchen Sixth Form College, Southampton (1974-1981). Vice Principal Pendleton Sixth Form College, Salford (1982- 1988). Then Principal De signate/Principal Birkenhead Sixth Form College, Wirral (1988-2006). Roger has also served on many committees/working groups with particular reference to the sixth form college sector (SFC A/SFC F); school governor; School Improvement Partner (SIP); worked with Merseyside colleges in accessing European Funds for building development and curriculum development for adult students.

Alan Debenham

Independent Governor & Chair of the People Committee

Alan is a member of the East Coast College Board, having formerly been a member of the Lowestoft Board. He is Chair of the People Committee and is a member of the Finance and General Purposes, Estates and Governance Remuneration and Search Committees. Alan is also a Director of the College's commercial subsidiary East Coast Energy Training Academy Ltd. Alan has over 20 years' experience in senior HR positions in the financial services sector. In that time, he undertook a wide variety of roles including training, management development, and business partnering and organisational change. He has considerable experience of leading on the HR elements of major change programmes particularly mergers, acquisitions and disposals. Prior to making the career change to HR he spent 17 years as a legal executive working mainly on property and trust matters.

David Hill

Independent Governor, Vice Chair, Chair of Finance and General Purposes & Chair of Estates Committee

David became the first Vice Chair(s) of East Coast College in August 2017 and Chair of Finance and General Purposes. He had joined the Great Yarmouth College Board in 2014 where he was Vice Chair and Chair of Finance and General Purposes. He had previously been a Great Yarmouth Governor and Chair of Audit 1994 – 2006. David spent many years working in the health sector in particular at the James Paget Hospital firstly as Director of Finance and then Chief Executive; a £170 million organisation. Whilst at the James Paget Hospital David helped set up the new Medical School at the University of East Anglia. He returned to the James Paget Hospital as Chief Executive following a critical CQC report and achieved its turnaround within 12 months. David was also the Executive lead for successfully merging two NHS Trusts.

Giles Kerkham

Independent Governor & Chair of Audit

Giles joined as an Associate Governor on the Audit Committee in January 2019 and became a full governor in April 2019. He is now Chair of Audit. Giles is a Chartered Accountant and Director at Larking Gowen LLP in Norwich, where he works almost exclusively with charities (including academies) and social enterprises. Giles served as Director and Audit Committee Chair for Norfolk Educational Services Ltd for 6 years until 2018. He is a Board Director at Gecko Theatre Ltd and also helps run Sprowston Cricket Club.

Peter Lavender OBE

Independent Governor & Chair of Standards and Quality Committee

Peter joined the East Coast College Corporation in 2018 and became Chair of the Quality and Standards Committee in September 2018. Peter has a long involvement in further education at policy level, in quality improvement as well as research and development. He is Professor of Education at the University of Wolverhampton and Assistant Chief Assessor for the Association of Colleges Beacon Awards. Peter was formerly a full-time FE inspector, adviser/writer of the Tomlinson Report on students with disabilities in FE; a senior local authority officer (responsible for special educational needs post-16); an adult education officer in Norfolk, and a school teacher. Peter received an OBE for services to education in the Queen's birthday honours in 2006 and was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in 2015. He has a degree in education from Bristol and a doctorate in applied research in education from UEA.

Tina Ellis MBE

Independent Governor, Vice Chair & Chair of East Coast Energy Training Academy Ltd

Tina became the first Vice Chair(s) of East Coast College in August 2017; having been Chair of Governors at Lowestoft College. Tina played an active and integral part in the Area Review and the resultant merger that formed East Coast College. Tina is Vice Chair, a member of the Quality and Standards Committee, Governance Remuneration and Search Committee, People Committee, Governor link for the Work Based Learning Quality Group and Chair of the College's commercial subsidiary East Coast Energy Training Academy Ltd. Tina's career has covered nearly 40 years of public service within central government in local, area and regional roles within the Department of Work and Pensions, where she successfully merged 2 districts. She has wide leadership experience of large and small functional teams including strategic planning, people, and budget and change management. Tina received the MBE in 2007 for services to the DWP and its partnerships. She lives locally and is passionate about the community's future growth alongside the development of skills and employability of its young people.

Albert Cadmore

Independent Governor

Albert is a member of the East Coast College Board having joined on inception. He was formerly a member of the Great Yarmouth Board. He is a member of the Quality and Standards Committee, Governance Remuneration and Search Committee, Audit Committee and is the Governor Link for Safeguarding. Albert is an experienced educationalist with strong community links both in Norfolk and Suffolk. For twenty years, until recently, he served as an Assistant Priest in the Flegg Coastal Benefice; Hemsby St Mary, Holy Trinity with All Saints Winterton, All Saints Horsey and St Mary's West Somerton. He is Chairman and Chaplain to the Great Yarmouth & Gorleston RNLI, a Trustee of the Great Yarmouth Grammar School Foundation Trust, and a Foundation Board member of the Lynn Grove Academy Local Board. Albert served as Chaplain at Norwich City FC for sixteen years and he is a Trustee of Sports Chaplaincy UK and is also involved in the civic life of the community and has served as Chaplain to the Mayor and to the High Sheriff of Norfolk. Albert has a DMS (Education), a BA, and an MA in Education.

David Blake

Independent Governor

David was appointed to the Board in 2020 and is a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Curriculum Development Committee and Estates Committee. David is a commercially minded CFO/FD & Corporate finance professional with substantial leadership and extensive experience in transforming and upgrading finance functions in complex organisations, both in the UK and Internationally, by influencing and collaborating across all business lines to deliver lasting value, true business support, increased ROI and robust controls. Extensive value add work in tech/TMT/telecom space for Private Equity, plc, and high net worth owners.

Mike Dowdall

Independent Governor

Mike joined the Corporation in February 2019 and is a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Curriculum Development Committee and Estates Committee. Mike is currently Development Adviser to New Anglia LEP (Employee). Providing Property and site development advice on Projects NALEP are involved in or being requested to support. A major aspect of this is providing technical advice on Enterprise Zone issues overseen by NALEP across Norfolk and Suffolk. Previous to this he has been involved in economic development in varying roles.

Gemma Head

Independent Governor

Gemma joined the East Coast College Board in February 2019 having previously been an Associate Governor since 2018. She is a member of the Quality and Standard's Committee, People Committee and Curriculum Development Committee. Within her role as Skills for Energy (SfE) Programme Manager and Company Secretary at the East of England Energy Group (EEEGR), Gemma is responsible for the delivery of key skills projects which aim to ensure the ongoing diversity and volume of skilled individuals for the current and future wellbeing of the energy sector. She is responsible for ensuring that EEEGR complies with standard financial and legal practice and maintaining high standards of corporate governance. Having spent six years in a variety of roles working for 3sun Group, Gemma has previously developed a knowledge of the energy industry as well as acquiring a wide range of skills ranging from HR and recruitment, to training management for in-house staff.

Saul Humphrey

Independent Governor

Dr Saul Humphrey is a member of the East Coast College Board having joined on inception. He is a member of the Curriculum Development Committee and Estates Committee. Saul is currently Chairman of Building Growth, the construction and property development sector of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. He represents the University of East Anglia's External Advisory Board and the University of Cambridge as a member of the IDBE industry liaison board. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb), Fellow of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS) and a Chartered Environmentalist (awarded by Society of Environment). Saul leads Saul D Humphrey LLP and has a number of other NED appointments including Great Yarmouth Borough Council's "Equinox" property investment and house-building companies.

Ian Lomax

Independent Governor

Ian was appointed to the Board in 2021 and is a member of the Curriculum Development Committee and Quality and Standards Committee.

Ian is a retired Chartered Engineer with 40 years' experience in the design and manufacture of high voltage electric motors for applications including mining, oil and gas exploration, power generation and naval defence. Ian has a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters in Engineering Business Management. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and past President of the Association of British Mining Equipment Companies.

His career began at GEC in Rugby. Ian was Managing Director at ATB Morley in Leeds, during which time the company received the Queen's Award for Enterprise three times. He was Chief Operating Officer for the ATB holding company in Vienna overseeing nine companies throughout Europe. He was Chairman of ATB Group UK which includes Laurence Scott in Norwich. During his run down to retirement he acted as Chief Engineer for Wolong Electric in Europe (the owners of ATB) working with teams in Europe and China.

Kirk Lower

Independent Governor

Kirk was appointed to the Board in 2021 and is a member of the Quality and Standards Committee. He was formerly, pre-merger a Board member at Lowestoft Sixth Form College.

Kirk works for Health Education England, one of the national bodies of the NHS leading on strategies and workstreams connected to:

- i) accessing entry level employment within the NHS and career progression after this - particularly by individuals, groups and communities currently underrepresented in the workforce
- ii) supporting employers in the development, use and growth of apprenticeships across the NHS - taking in entry level occupations at Level 2 through to those at post-graduate level and
- iii) supporting those volunteering into the NHS (and also volunteering from within the NHS workforce) - for example through the development of new training materials and in matching interest with opportunity.

Kirk is also the Chair of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education Panel for Health and Science - approving new apprenticeship standards and recommending funding levels. In this role he is directly involved in the development, approval and introduction of the new post-16 vocational qualification - the T Level. By way of background, I am an HR professional having worked at director level for a number of organisations in both further and higher education and the NHS.

Christina Sadler

Associate Governor

Christina is an Associate Governor on the Audit Committee and was appointed in 2020. Christina is a Chartered Accountant with an international audit and commercial consultancy background in mergers and acquisitions. In 1992 Christina moved from the world of business and commerce into the Further Education Sector working in a variety of senior financial and leadership roles in colleges in the Midlands, London and East Anglia.

Paul Nisbett

Associate Governor

Paul Nisbett was appointed as an Associate Governor on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Curriculum Development Committee in 2020. Paul is a senior hotel executive with over 20 years in the industry and a proven track record in the management and construction of financial services. Paul is currently the Finance Director of Valor Hospitality Europe, which manages hotels on behalf of Hilton, Marriott and IHG. Paul previously held roles as CFO of the Hotel Collection from April 2012 till February 2015, and was appointed as acting CEO to manage the group's transition from Barceló to Puma Hotels Collection. Prior to joining the Hotel Collection, Paul spent four years at Principal Hayley Hotels, initially as Chief Operating Officer and then as Special Projects Director. This was preceded by five years as Commercial and Finance Director at Malmison and Hotel Du Vin Hotels where he developed a six hotel, £150m business into a 28 hotel, £500m business in five years. Paul's earlier career included positions with Le Méridien Hotels, Forte and Hilton.

Jane Fermor

Staff Governor

Jane is a member of the East Coast College Board and is a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Curriculum Development Committee. Jane has worked in education for over thirty years, the majority of the time with West Sussex County Council. Initially as a school bursar and then after gaining promotion as a Senior Finance officer managing the school financial support team. This enabled her to gain invaluable experience in various aspects of school finance. Following a move to Lowestoft three years ago she was able to continue her links with education and gained employment as an administrative assistant at Great Yarmouth College. Following the merger and East Coast College reorganisation she is now based at the Lowestoft campus in the same capacity.

Debbie Pring

Staff Governor

Debbie is a member of the East Coast College Board and is a member of the Quality and Standards Committee and People Committee. Debbie is a Subject Advisor for Norfolk County Council promoting high quality Health and Social Care teaching and career aspiration within schools and 6th Form colleges across Norfolk. Debbie teaches FE and HE across both campuses and has a particular interest in widening participation and promoting aspirational outcomes. Debbie is a registered Social Worker specialising in Child Protection, Learning Disability and Parents with Learning Disability.

Andrew Timberlake

Staff Governor

Andrew is a member of the East Coast College Board and is a member of the Quality and Standards Committees. He joined in 2018 following the merger with Lowestoft Sixth Form College. Andrew is an educator with more than 20 years in Jamaica and the United Kingdom. Trained as an agronomist, his passion is in natural science and mathematics and prior to being an educator worked in farm production, research, adult education (Extension Service) and management. He has sat on several boards and committees in the public and private sector. His greatest achievement to date is the success of the many students who have come to love both maths and science, and have gone on to pursue careers or pursuits in related fields of study.

Lucy Pryor

Student Governor and Student Union President

Lucy was appointed as the College first sabbatical Student Union President in 2020. She combines this with studying at East Coast College.

Lucy sits on the East Coast College Board and is a member of the Quality and Standards Committee.