

East Coast College Corporation Team

David Blake

Chair

David was appointed to the Board in 2020 and as Chair as of 1 8 21. He is a member of the Finance and General Purposes, Governance Remuneration and Search 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/telco space for Private Equity, plc, and high net worth owners.

Stuart Rimmer MBE

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 FETL . 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.

Stuart was awarded the TES FE Leader of the Year in 2021.

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 ICSA Governance Professional of the Year in 2019.

[Peter Lavender OBE](#)

[Independent Governor, Vice Chair \(Quality\) & 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. 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, 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 and advises the ECC College's research group.

[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.

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.

Saul Humphrey

[Independent Governor & Chair of Curriculum Development](#)

Dr Saul Humphrey is a member of the East Coast College Board having joined on inception. He is Chair of the Curriculum Development Committee and a member of the 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 (FCIOB), 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.

Tina Ellis MBE

[Independent Governor & Chair of East Coast Energy Training Academy Ltd](#)

Tina, as Chair of Governors at Lowestoft College, played an active and integral part in the Area Review and the resultant merger that formed East Coast College. Tina is a member of the Quality and Standards, Governance Remuneration and Search and People Committees, 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.

Rob Evans

Senior Independent Director

Rob is a member of the East Coast College Board and the Senior Independent Director. He was Chair of Governors at Great Yarmouth College from 2013 – 2017 and East Coast College Chair 2020-2021.

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.

Mike Dowdall

Independent Governor & Chair of Estates Committee

Mike joined the Corporation in February 2019 and is a member of the Finance and General Purposes, Curriculum Development and Chairs the Estates Committees. 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 and Freeport East 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 and Curriculum Development Committees. Within her roles 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.

Ian Lomax

Independent Governor

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

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.

Kirk has an HR professional and worked at director level for a number of organisations in both further and higher education and the NHS.

[Jude Owens](#)

[Independent Governor](#)

Kirk was appointed to the Board in 2021 and is a member of the People Committee.

Jude is a seasoned HR professional with a hands on, pragmatic and personal approach. She has over 20 years' experience gained in both domestic SME and international blue chip FMCG organisations.

During her career Jude's experience has been gained in a diverse range of industry sectors (Manufacturing, Finance, Professional Services, Engineering Design, Private Equity and Education). She has held senior roles in several companies including Johnson & Johnson; Covance Inc; Ove Arup & Partners and the University of Law, supporting strategically with all aspects of the people agenda. Jude is a supporter of lifelong learning and has continued to develop herself personally and professionally throughout her career. She is a chartered member of the CIPD and holds a Combined Honours degree in Psychology and English Literature, from Liverpool University, an MBA from Bradford University and Post-Graduate Certificate in Executive and Business Coaching from Leeds Beckett University.

[Andrew Walmsley](#)

[Independent Governor](#)

Andrew was appointed to the Board in 2021 and is a member of the Curriculum Development and Audit Committees. He is a retired Chartered Engineer with 40 years' experience, mainly in the high-performance automotive sector and has an impressive track record of enhancing performance and creating shareholder value along with a passion for excellence. His roles include Managing Director at McLaren Cars and Cosworth Engineering as well as Operations Director of Lotus Cars. In addition, he was Managing Director of Broom Boats in Brundall, Norfolk for two years. Andrew is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and has been a Board Member and Vice Chairman of their Automobile Division; he has been Chairman of the Marine East Manufacturing, Skills and Business Development Group for the British Marine Federation and has also spent time as a member of the Norfolk Board of the Prince of Wales' Youth Business Trust.

Jose Bamonde

Independent Governor

Jose was appointed to the Board in 2021 and is a member of the Quality and Standards and People Committees.

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 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.

Nasima Begum

Staff Governor

Nasima is a member of the East Coast College Board and was appointed in 2021. Nasima works at East Coast College as the Finance Coordinator working across the college's projects to ensure financial reporting is accurate and precise. Outside of work, Nasima has been a councillor for a number of years and was recently elected as the Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft. Passionate about improving college experience for our young people and those in adult education, Nasima believes ECC is a fantastic place to work and is looking forward to the opportunities that being a staff governor will bring by contributing to shaping its future.

[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 and the Curriculum Development Committees. 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 Malmaison 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.

[Liz Howard](#)

[Associate Governor](#)

Liz is an Associate Governor on the People Committee and was appointed in 2021. Liz is a Fellow of the CIPD and has worked in HR for over 20 years. With a background in both the private and public sector having worked in manufacturing before moving to Easton & Otley College and then on to HMPPS / MOJ. Currently Liz is employed as the HR Director of Inspiration Trust, a multi academy trust with academies across Norfolk and Suffolk.

[Dave Cole](#)

[Associate Governor](#)

Dave joined as an Associate Governor on the Finance and General Purposes Committee in October 2021. In 1987, after graduating from Kansas State University with a Degree in Accounting, Dave joined Koch Industries as a staff

accountant within the International division of Koch Carbon Inc. In 1991, Dave moved to the UK as an expat with Koch taking on the role of UK controller for the recently acquired John Zink Company. Over the following 30 years Dave has remained based in the UK with Koch through its global growth taking on a variety of senior finance and accounting roles, within multiple divisions of Koch Industries spanning Engineering, Commodities trading, agriculture, Manufacturing. He is currently employed as a Finance Director within the Medical Device division with a focus on Commercial development.

Roland Kaye

Associate Governor

Roland is an Associate Governor on the Quality & Standards and Audit Committees and was appointed in 2021. Roland is an Emeritus Professor of the University of East Anglia and Past President of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants now retired. Roland has held a number of senior appointments in universities including Deanships and Director of Teaching and Learning and latterly advising a number of universities. Roland has held directorships and governorships with UK and international organizations, including treasurer and chair of audit committee. Led full time, part time and adult education programmes including blended learning

David Shaw

Associate Governor

David joined as an Associate Governor on the Audit Committee in October 2021. David is a Chartered Management Accountant having qualified in 1992. After finishing school in York, he studied for an Accountancy and Finance degree in Nottingham. He has held various finance roles in a number of sectors in his career working primarily in large multi-national organisations, starting with confectionery and food manufacturing through retail and business services before a 10-year spell working for a number of Housing Associations in both London and Norwich as a Financial Services Director. David joined Creative Education Trust in June 2017 and is the Regional Head of Finance for the Great Yarmouth cluster of academies, which are Caister, Lynn Grove, Woodlands Primary and Wroughton Academies.