













Independent Governors	Additional Position	Biography
<p>David Blake</p> 	<p>Chair</p>	<p>David is the Chair of the Board.</p> <p>David is a committee member of Governance Remuneration & Search, Finance & General Purposes, and Estates.</p> <p>David is also Chair of AOC Eastern Region Chairs Group and a member of the AOC National Chairs Council.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>David is a strategic thinker and a rounded adaptive manager, proven ability of leading and inspiring Finance, IT, Procurement and other key functions of the CFO, and wider senior management team, to ones driving shareholder returns and positive change.</p>
<p>Tina Ellis MBE</p> 	<p>Vice Chair Community & ECETA Chair</p> <p>Link for Safeguarding and Skills</p>	<p>Tina is Vice Chair Community and Chair of the College's subsidiary ECETA.</p> <p>Tina is a committee member of Quality & Curriculum, Governance Remuneration & Search, and People and is the Governor link for Safeguarding and Skills.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Kirk Lower</p> 	<p>Vice Chair and People Chair</p>	<p>Kirk is Vice Chair, and a member of Quality & Curriculum, Finance & General Purposes, People, Governance Remuneration & Search, and Link for Apprenticeships.</p> <p>Kirk has a track record of success in strategy development and implementation across the public sector.</p> <p>When working for the NHS, he was the National Lead for access to employment and apprenticeships - overseeing the growth of NHS apprentices from just a few hundred to, now, over 25,000 new starts each year. Kirk also had a central role in</p>


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		<p>the introduction of the Care Certificate, the development of the Nurse Associate role and the roll-out of Registered Nurse Apprentices and he also led a DfE funded college providing supported internships within the NHS for young people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>Kirk is Chair of the Princes Trust national Health and Social Care Advisory Board and Chair of the Health and Science Route Panel for the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.</p> <p>Kirk has previously been a Regional Director with Health Education East of England NHS, an Executive Director at two large further education colleges and at the James Paget Hospital and the Chair of Citizens Advice in Great Yarmouth.</p> <p>Kirk has a LLM in Employment Law, a MSc in Human Resource Management, a MA in Industrial Relations and, having trained to be a teacher, a BEd. In addition, Kirk is a Fellow of the RSA.</p>
<p>Peter Lavender OBE</p> 	<p>Chair Quality & Curriculum</p>	<p>Peter is Chair of Quality & Curriculum and a member of Governance Remuneration & Search.</p> <p>Peter has a long involvement in further education at policy level, in quality improvement as well as research and development. He is Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Wolverhampton and was formerly Deputy Chief Executive at the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education.</p> <p>Peter has worked as 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Ian Lomax</p> 	<p>Chair Finance & General Purposes and Link for Health & Safety</p>	<p>Ian is Chair of Finance & General Purposes, a member of Governance Remuneration & Search and People and Link for Health & Safety.</p> <p>Ian is a highly experienced director and engineer with over 40 years' technical, operational and managerial experience in the field of high voltage motors and has worked internationally.</p>


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		<p>Ian has a BSc Mechanical Engineering, a MSc Engineering Business Management and is a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.</p>
<p>Giles Kerkham</p> 	<p>Chair Audit</p>	<p>Giles is Chair of Audit.</p> <p>Giles runs the Not for Profit and Education services team at Larking Gowen, Chartered Accountants, where his clients are mainly located in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, many of which are academies or other charities. Giles leads audits and charity independent examinations; he also advises charities and social enterprises on strategy and structures, formation of charities and social enterprises, tax and governance.</p>
<p>Mike Dowdall</p> 	<p>Chair Estates and Senior Independent Director</p>	<p>Mike is Chair of Estates, and a member of Audit and the Board's Senior Independent Director.</p> <p>Mike was Development Adviser to New Anglia LEP (Employee), providing property and site development advise on Projects which NALP were involved in or were being requested to support. A major aspect of this included provision of technical advice on Enterprise Zone issues which were overseen by NALP across Norfolk and Suffolk. Prior to this Mike had roles in Economic Development.</p>
<p>Dr Rachel Kirk</p> 	<p>Link for SEND & HE</p>	<p>Rachel is a member of Quality & Curriculum and Link for SEND & HE.</p> <p>Rachel was a senior leader in the Further Education sector until August 2020, since then she has worked in a freelance capacity for Colleges and Universities supporting development of provision and quality assurance processes.</p> <p>As a freelance educationalist Rachel has successfully completed projects with a number of colleges and universities from the role of interim Head of HE, to supporting a national college group to achieve Indefinite Degree Awarding Powers to supporting three large universities to establish and deliver high quality degree apprenticeships, with one recently achieving a Good judgement from Ofsted.</p> <p>Rachel had a long history in teaching and curriculum management, particularly in initial teacher training and education studies. She is experienced at curriculum design and planning, is an experienced external examiner across the HE sector and acts as the external panel member for institutional approvals and partnership reviews for a number of universities.</p> <p>Rachel is a HEA Fellow and has a doctorate in Education.</p>



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<p>Teresa Sharman</p> 		<p>Teresa is a member of Audit.</p> <p>Teresa is a fully qualified audit professional having achieved chartered status as well as the qualification in internal audit leadership, and has over 25 years of experience working in internal audit in the public sector. Teresa also has non-executive experience, having previously been both a Board member and Chair of Audit Committee for a housing trust.</p> <p>Currently, Teresa is Head of Internal Audit at Eastern Internal Audit Services, a consortium which provides internal audit services for the City, Districts and Borough Councils in Norwich and Norfolk as well as the Broads Authority and a small housing society. Teresa is responsible for managing the internal audit service provided, and setting the strategic direction of the Consortium. Prior to the current role, Teresa has managed internal audit teams at a county level and managed internal audit service delivery teams for private practice, managing client portfolios across the education sector.</p>
<p>Dame Vicki Paterson</p> 		<p>Vicki is a member of Quality & Curriculum.</p> <p>Vicki is a former Executive Headteacher and is a Headteacher and SEN expert/ Chair for Admission Appeals and PEX independent review panels for EducationAppeals.org, Clerks Associates UK and for Suffolk Council</p> <p>Vicki is a skilled educator, teacher, Headteacher and Executive Head with 40 years' experience of working in schools and 27 years' experience in leading, managing, supporting and developing schools and their staff and governing bodies in London and the South East. Vicki has successfully led school communities through transformation and change with a strong commitment to high achievement, the celebration of diversity and the importance of equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Vicki led three different inner-London schools to Ofsted outstanding and ensured they remain outstanding over time. Diversity and Inclusion were the cornerstones of her work in schools and in particular the importance of recognising and supporting the needs and aspirations of those who are disadvantaged.</p> <p>Vicki was recognised by the National College of School Leaders/ National College of Teachers and Leaders as a Local Leader in Education (LLE) and then as a National Leader in Education (NLE) and was awarded the honour of Dame of the British Empire for Services to Education in 2013.</p>




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<p>Graham Evans</p> 		<p>Graham is a member of Finance & General Purposes.</p> <p>Graham worked in the Energy Industry for over 35 years as a specialist in Oil & Gas Fluid Control Systems.</p> <p>Since March 2015 Graham has been involved with giving lectures in primary schools, academies and colleges to encourage more students to pursue a future career in engineering.</p> <p>Graham is a Member of the Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) Education Office (EO) for Anglian Coastal Network and is a STEM Ambassador (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)</p> <p>Graham is a member of Gorleston Theatre Company and performs in there 3 shows a year at the Pavilion Theatre Gorleston.</p>
<p>Robin Jackson</p> 		<p>Robin is a member of Quality & Curriculum.</p> <p>Robin has significant experience of working in the further education and awarding sectors, and engaging with employers to meet their skills needs. Currently Robin is Director of Assessment at Open Awards, an awarding and end-point assessment organisation. His vocational specialism is in the land-based industries but he has been fortunate to have been involved in the development, delivery and management of a diverse range of professional and technical qualifications.</p> <p>Robin holds degree and postgraduate qualifications from a number of Universities, including a doctorate from the University of Southampton. He is a Chartered Forester, a Chartered Educational Assessor as well as a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association.</p>
<p>Andy Tovell</p> 		<p>Andy is a member of Finance & General Purposes.</p> <p>Andy trained as an accountant in the audit practice of Price Waterhouse in London. He subsequently held a series of senior finance roles in the financial services sector, including as CFO of Liberum Capital, Finance Director of N.M. Rothschild, and CFO of Citigroup in Central and Eastern Europe.</p> <p>Andy is currently an adult learner at Suffolk New College, enjoying the Professional Cookery Level 2 course at the Suffolk Centre for Culinary Arts.</p>




East Coast College Meet the Governance Team 2025

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		Andy is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales. He has a degree in economics from Clare College, University of Cambridge.
Mark Buckton 		<p>Mark is a member of Quality & Curriculum.</p> <p>Mark has a wide experience across Employment and Skills in Operational Management, Project Management and Governance.</p> <p>After an initial 5 years in the Army as an Armoured Corp Officer he moved into the Construction Industry, he worked for the National House Building Council and then spent 10 years with the Construction Industry Training Board. This background has given Mark a strong appreciation of the Employment, Skills and Training environment.</p> <p>Mark became responsible for Cskills Awards and managed it during the transfer to NOCN where we headed up the construction operations. He subsequently managed the acquisition of the CPCS skills card scheme, trouble shooting the transfer and getting it to an effective delivery state. Then as Group Director of NOCN he managed the Quality Assurance, Curriculum, Operations and Product Management teams across the Awarding Organisation.</p> <p>Currently the Associate Director for Employment and Skills at Opergy, he has deep knowledge in the skills and workforce needs of the Renewable Energy Sector and supporting supply chain.</p>

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Paul Padda 	Principal & CEO	<p>Paul is Principal and CEO at East Coast College and a College Governor.</p> <p>Paul has worked for the College for over 10 years and was appointed Principal and CEO in April 2024 having previously been Deputy Principal where he successfully led the College through preparations and delivery of a grade two in the Ofsted Inspection February 2020 as Nominee.</p> <p>Paul has a deep understanding of the challenges facing the further education sector in the UK and is committed to creating an environment that fosters learning and excellence. Every student deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential, and Paul is dedicated to creating a college that is inclusive and enables both staff and students to thrive. Equally he is passionate about supporting the local and regional</p>

		<p>communities and employers to deliver the skills and training to enable economic growth.</p> <p>Outside of the education, Paul has worked in IT and business management.</p> <p>Paul has a Certificate in Education, MSc in Computer Science and an honours degree in Law.</p>
Katie Kerridge 	Staff Governor	<p>Katie is a staff governor and a member of People.</p> <p>Katie is an English Lecturer and has just achieved Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status to be a fully qualified teacher and has a degree in Education Studies at UEA. Prior to her current role she was an English and Maths Coordinator.</p> <p>Katie has always been passionate about education and had a desire to work in this industry since a very young age and very much enjoys working with learners to help them make progress, both academically and personally.</p>
Maisy Clark Emily Harvey Logan-Jaimes Gravells	Student Governors	<p>Maisy and Emily are joint Student Union Presidents and are members of the Board.</p> <p>Logan-Jaimes Gravells is a member of Finance and General Purposes.</p>
Madeline Moretta 	Staff Governor	<p>Madeline is a staff governor and a member of Quality & Curriculum.</p> <p>East Coast College has been a large part of Maddie's life as she was a Further Education student at the Great Yarmouth campus at the age of 16 followed by studying my degree on site through the University of Suffolk a few years later. Since then, Maddie has worked in numerous roles at the college including Co-Educator, Student Achievement & Retention Officer, Course Leader and most currently, Curriculum Manager.</p> <p>Maddie is passionate about supporting the college's continued progress and fully promote the ECC strategy and values. The college provides huge support to the local area which is an essential necessity to develop the wellbeing and prosperity of each individual as well as the region itself.</p>
Associate Governors	Position	Biography
Amy Rust	Associate on Quality & Curriculum and Link for Learner Voice	<p>Amy is an Associate Governor on Quality & Curriculum and Learner Voice Link.</p> <p>Amy is an accomplished organisational leader in the Higher Education sector, and holds a deep commitment to educational excellence and community empowerment. Amy established and manages a local learning centre for students aged 7-18 in Great Yarmouth with IntoUniversity.</p>

		<p>Amy studied Media with Politics at the University of East Anglia and has previously worked as a Student Opportunities Project Coordinator at UEA and as a Students' Union Administrator at Norwich University of the Arts.</p>
<p>Peter Blackburn</p> 	<p>Associate on Finance & General Purposes and Estates</p>	<p>Peter is an Associate on Finance & General Purposes and Estates</p> <p>Peter has been involved in running Operations, Manufacturing, Capital build and H&S in the UK, Ireland, USA, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, China and Finland in many different industries over a 25 year period.</p> <p>Peter has played a major role in 3 international Factory start-ups, (Ireland, Malaysia and Finland) and is now Vice President of Operations at Thurne-Middleby UK.</p> <p>Peter is a Bachelor of Engineering, a Chartered Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers UK, CEng. Chartered Member of Engineering New Zealand CMEngNZ and Member of ASME</p>
<p>Ofure Obomighie</p> 	<p>Associate on Audit</p>	<p>Ofure is an Associate Governor on our Audit.</p> <p>Ofure holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and is an Associate Member of both the Accounting Technicians and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. She has served as a finance executive in prominent firms across the globe and currently serves as the Financial Controller at Siemens Energy.</p> <p>As the founder of Hilary Sean Services, an accounting firm dedicated to providing accounting and tax solutions to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UK, Ofure brings over 22 years of expertise in financial management. She has a solid foundation in budgeting, financial planning, and analysis, and has successfully overseen complex financial portfolios, ensuring optimal resource allocation and maximizing investment returns. Throughout her career, she has also implemented robust financial controls and reporting systems to promote transparency and accountability.</p>
<p>Andrew Dowsett</p>	<p>Associate on Audit</p>	<p>Andrew is an Associate Governor on our Audit.</p> <p>Andrew is a Chartered Accountant in Ernst & Young's Banking and Capital Markets team and an armed forces veteran. He has over 10 years' experience in providing a range of audit and assurance services, with particular focus on external audit, internal controls assessment, group audits and financial reporting under IFRS and UK GAAP. He currently works with a range of clients across Europe, Northern American and the</p>

		<p>Middle East. Originally from Newcastle, Andrew has lived in London since 2012, studying at Kings College London with a semester at the University of Toronto, Canada. After completing his ACA qualification at both EY and Mazars, Andrew spent time in Deloitte's BCM audit division before returning to EY in 2021.</p> <p>Outside of his day-to-day role, Andrew serves on the ICAEW Council and number of other charity boards including the United Colleges Group and South Essex Colleges Group, working to empower individuals and strengthening the communities the charities serve.</p> <p>Andrew is a keen cyclist having undertaken many long-distance trips including appearing on the Global Cycling Network in 2022.</p>
<p>Rachael Botley</p> 	<p>Associate Governor Finance and General Purposes</p>	<p>Rachael runs a business and governance consultancy for schools and has led and supported a broad portfolio of maintained schools and academy trusts, mainly in Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Essex. Since 2019, Rachael has been deployed by the Department for Education as a 'School Resource Management Adviser' (SRMA). SRMAs are accredited sector experts, providing peer-to-peer advice and driving transformative change in the areas of workforce planning, governance and resource management to deliver the best possible outcomes for pupils. Rachael also hears school admissions and pupil exclusion appeals, assisting two local authorities as an Independent Panel Member.</p> <p>Prior to working in schools, Rachael was a senior buyer in the retail industry, most recently Tesco. She continues to draw upon this private industry experience when evaluating school procurement and in working to deliver value for money for her schools.</p> <p>Rachael holds a MSc in Business Management (University of Bath), a BA in French (UCL) and a postgraduate diploma in marketing (CIM). Rachael was awarded Fellowship of the Institute of School Business Leadership (ISBL) in 2021.</p>
<p>Wendy Stanger</p> 	<p>Director of Governance</p>	<p>Wendy is Director of Governance.</p> <p>Wendy is a Chartered Governance Professional and has had a varied career working at a management level in the public sector including as a Senior Local Authority Housing Manager, an Internal Auditor for the NHS and a VAT Inspector. She has worked in governance since 2014 and has also been a school governor.</p> <p>Wendy's regional and national work includes Chairing the AoC East Governance Professionals network, Vice Chair of the AoC National Governance Professional network, the moderator of</p>

		<p>the national Further Education Governance Professionals online Jisc network, member of the IOD Qualifications committee that designed and tested the Further Education Governance Professionals Qualification, member of sector working group that supported the development of the FE Financial Handbook and a Governance Consultant providing External Board Reviews and Interim Support.</p> <p>Wendy won the Chartered Governance Institute Governance Professional of the Year in 2019, Highly Commended for Governance Champion 2024 and appointed in March 2023 as a National Leader of Governance by the Further Education Commissioner.</p> <p>Wendy has a BA (Hon) in Politics and Law, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management, is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute and has completed the Further Education Governance Professional's leadership Programme.</p>
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