

**Sir James Hill, Chair, Trust Board**

Sir James has had an extensive business background and still has an involvement in a local textile company and a company in the USA. His work in education has covered both higher and further education with appointments to College and University boards as well as the private secondary sector. He has enjoyed a long association with Dixons from its inception and then in 2000 joining the Governing Body. As Chairman, he has taken positions in both the City Technology College and now Academy associations and in 2008 became the first Chairman in the re-organised Specialist Schools and Academy Trust with a national profile. Currently Sir James chairs the overarching Dixons Multi-Academy Trust.



**Jo Williams, Trust Board Member & Chair, Governing Council**

Jo is Geography graduate and an educator who has enjoyed a varied career, stretching across education, leadership and management and business. Jo has a broad professional background including 19 years in teaching, 6 years as a Local Authority inspector, 5 years as Education Action Zone Director, and 10 years in her own education related I.T. business. Jo has a wide range of project management and school improvement experience, along with 22 years' service in Governance in the primary and secondary sectors. She is a Dixons Trustee and Chair of the Governing Council of Dixons Multi-Academy Trust. She is also a National Leader of Governance, working to support other Chairs of Governors both in Bradford and across the region.



**Professor Tim Birtwistle, Trust Board Member**

Tim has extensive experience across higher education in the UK, across Europe and the United States. He is Professor Emeritus at Leeds Beckett University (having been amongst other things, lecturer, Head of the Law School and a research professor in the law and policy of higher education) and a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (publications as well as being on the mediation panel for some years). Tim's work across Europe has included holding various Visiting Professorships, one time President of the European Association for International Education, work for the EU Commission (Bologna Process and ECTS), Tuning Expert and British Council Bologna activities. In the USA Tim is a Consultant to Lumina Foundation. These activities have become focused around learning (as well as continuing to look at access and widening participation, retention and progression, academic freedom, student rights to appeal, university liability etc).



**Professor Grace Alderson, Chair Group Audit Committee, Governor Dixons  
City/Dixons Kings Academy**

Grace has extensive leadership and management experience in education, the NHS, and in charitable trusts. In addition to her work for Dixons, Grace's other current commitments include being a Non-Executive Director and the Senior Independent Director at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and membership of the Department of Justice's Advisory Committee for North and West Yorkshire. Until August 2015, Grace worked at the University of Bradford where in addition to her involvement as a teacher and researcher as Professor of Medical Microbiology, she held a wide range of academic and senior management roles including Dean of Faculty and Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Grace recently served a 4 year term as a lay member of the General Dental Council and has also been a trustee for a range of charities including the higher education Equality Challenge Unit and QED-UK.



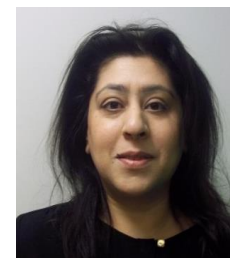
**Lynn Barrett, Chair of Governors Dixons Allerton Academy & Dixons Allerton Primary & Member of Governing Council**

Lynn's career as a librarian has followed her from the USA to Greece and Saudi Arabia and finally, in 1982, to England. She worked 5 years at Rhodesway Upper School (now Dixons Allerton Academy), 14 years at Dixons City Technology College and provided training and consulting throughout the UK. Lynn was awarded an honorary fellowship by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and a Lifetime Achievement award by the School Library Association for services to school libraries in England. Lynn is currently Chair of Governors at Dixons Allerton Academy, a Dixons Trustee and on the Governing Council of the Dixons Multi-Academy Trust.



**Ruby Bhatti, Chair of Governors, Dixons Marchbank & Dixons Manningham Academies, Member of Group Audit Committee**

Ruby is a practicing solicitor with over 20 years of experience in the legal field. She has over 18 years of governance experience and almost two decades of experience in various non-executive directorships.



Ruby has a wide range of experience in the education field. She has supported the Local Authority as a board member for several Interim Executive Board's (IEB) and is currently Shadow Chair for a local primary school and Chair for the School Improvement Committee for a local secondary school. Additionally, she has completed the Chairs of Governors' Leadership Development Programme and is a National Leader of Governance, working to support governors in Bradford.

Ruby is Chairperson of the joint governing body of Dixon Marchbank & Dixon Manningham Academies. She is also a member of the Group Audit Committee and a member of the Governing Council of Dixon Multi Academy Trust.

**John Bowers, Chair of Governors, Dixons City & Dixons Kings Academy**

John is a National Leader of Governance. An educational consultant, working as a Leadership Coach for Future Leaders and an Independent consultant working at different schools.



**Brent Fitzpatrick, Governor Dixons Allerton Academy, Chair of Group Finance Committee**

Brent has an extensive background in industry, covering oil and gas production, oil services, Insurance, technology and clean energy. His commitment to education in Bradford has seen his involvement in the primary, special and secondary schools. He sits on a number of education committees within Bradford and also sits as a trustee for the National Governors Association. He was awarded an MBE for services to education in 2012.



**Bryan Collins, Chair of Governors Dixons Trinity & Dixons McMillan Academies & Member of Group Finance Committee**

Bryan has brought experience of education, business and governorship to the chairmanship of the governors of Dixons Trinity & Dixons McMillan Academies. With B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees, he headed Science departments in three different types of school, acquired a M.Ed. degree on secondment and became Deputy Head of a large community school.

His first Headship was of a state grammar school which he led for 10 years through reorganisation into the comprehensive system. His second headship of 13 years, was of the former independent Leeds Grammar School which he led through its relocation to the outskirts of the City. While in post in Leeds he was a member of the University of Leeds Governing Council for 9 years.

Following his headships, Bryan became a freelance education consultant, his main streams of activity were; as a lead inspector of independent schools, reporting through the Independent Schools Inspectorate to Ofsted; as an education consultant to several major construction companies; and in several aspects of the training and professional development of school and college leaders.

Following consultancy to the then Dixons City Technology College Governors and project leadership within Dixons and a group of other City Technology Colleges, Bryan joined the Board of Governors and served for some years before becoming the Chairman of Dixons Trinity Academy & Dixons Music Primary. He has also been governor of a primary school and an independent school and has undertaken other voluntary work for the Scouting & Guiding Associations and for The Prince's Trust.

As Chairman of the joint governing body of Dixons Trinity & Dixons McMillan Academies, Bryan is a member of the Governing Council of the Dixons Multi-Academy Trust and a member of the Group Finance Committee.

**Narinder Thapar, Chair of Governors Dixons Music Primary & Dixons Allerton Primary, Governor Dixons Allerton Academy**

Narinder lives in Bradford. He studied business at the University of Wolverhampton and proceeded to work in the fast financial sector, becoming involved in a major overhaul of the I.T. system for a large organisation before moving to the public health sector. Working in secondary care and supporting information governance Narinder focused on the rights of individuals to privacy and the ability of the organisations to use data for the purposes of their business. Then progressing onto a special health authority, working across the country and dealing with information rights, specifically public access to information held. A committed father who is passionate about education, the moving to becoming a school governor was a natural fit.

**Sir Nick Weller, CEO, Dixons Academies Trust, Bradford**

Nick is CEO of the eight Dixons Academies in Bradford: three primaries, four secondaries and one all-through 4-19 school. It includes both sponsored turnaround academies addressing educational failure and new free schools meeting growing demand. The Trust is built around the high-performing Dixons City Academy, which opened 26 years ago as one of the first state-funded independent schools in the country. It also includes Dixons Trinity, the first secondary free school to be graded outstanding by OFSTED. A shared Post 16 provision is planned to open in 2017 along with Dixons' first school in Leeds (the all-through Trinity Chapeltown).

Sir Nick was designated a National Leader of Education in 2009, and sits on the Board of Ambition School Leadership. He was awarded a knighthood for services to education in 2015. His report to the Treasury and DfE on schools in the Northern Powerhouse region was published in November 2016.

