



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

Local Advisory Board (LAB)



Justin Robbins – Community LAB Member & Chair

I have lived in Grange Park since 2002 and both of my children attended Lydiard Park Academy. I manage my own business through which I help organisations, including schools, to communicate efficiently and effectively with their various audiences. I am also a British Triathlon coach and Head Coach at Swindon Triathlon Club. In this capacity, I work with groups and individuals to help them to achieve their personal triathlon goals through providing training plans and coached sessions.

I see my role as community LAB Member to be a fantastic opportunity to share my experience and passion for improving communication for the benefit of LPA; its teachers, parents and students. It is an important and critical role within the West Swindon community, which I take very seriously and am committed to devoting as much time as my commitments allow to make a positive difference.



Claire Ashley – Parent LAB Member & SEND LAB representative

I am mum to 4 boys all of whom attend, or have attended LPA. Being a Swindon girl from the get go, and living predominantly in West Swindon LPA has been our school of choice. Whilst I work at Nationwide Building Society on Digital Projects I'm definitely not at all techie, but I am a keen baker and love everything crafty.

I volunteered to be a LAB Member so that I could stay close to my youngest boys as they go through school, but to also have an opportunity in both supporting the school, making a positive impact and giving something back to the community.



Lesley Stewart

Community LAB Member

Having now lived in Westlea for the past few years, I thought it was time to give something back to my local community, having worked in the education sector for the last 18 years, I thought it would be a good way to use the skills and knowledge that I have.

Most of my career has been in Primary education, currently I am now working for a charity who enable young people of different abilities to prepare themselves for the world of work, whichever path they chose to follow, sixth form, University, apprenticeships or straight in to a work placement.

As a Local Authority Board LAB Member, I would like to help students and the school fulfil their potential!



Gary Pearson - Principal of the Academy

I originally joined the school in 1996 as an NQT in the Humanities Department, teaching Geography at GCSE. I became a Head of Year in 1999 and saw the year group through to the end of Year 11 in 2001.

I then became an Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for the Pastoral Structure within the school.

Since 2005 I have been one of the Deputy Headteachers, referred to as Vice Principal, when the School gained Academy status and became Lydiard Park Academy.

With the growth of Park Academies Trust I became Principal in November 2016 and in this role I am a LAB Member on the Local Advisory Board.



Aga Rossouw – Parent LAB Member

I have lived in UK since 2006, initially working for car rental company. Later, I became a childminder to achieve work-life balance, and to support my own children whilst they are growing up. Working with and supporting my childminding families gives me great sense of job satisfaction as well. My educational background is in Accounting and Finance (Poland), and Business Management and Human Resources (USA), but my heart always has been in human aspect of matters, especially in relation to supporting children and young people.

I have always felt strong need to be connected to the community I live in allowing me to contribute to organisations and people around me, but also to be involved in my children's lives. I support Millbrook PTA and the 1st Swindon Sea Scouts as a Cub's Section Assistant Leader. I would like my children to see that giving back (paying forward) to community, is not something extraordinary, but natural progression of becoming a responsible adult.

The idea of becoming a LAB Member have been on my mind for almost a decade now. I have always felt that I want to support my children, not only from the role of the parent, but also to support school itself the best I can. However, I have felt that perhaps I would have nothing to offer or not be good enough. Recent challenges and turmoil in the world have reminded me that volunteers play incredibly important role in society. Being part of something important, like supporting local school, is something close to my heart. If anyone like me, ever thought of becoming a LAB Member, but was not sure of their own aptitudes, my advice is, just go for it!



Anne Pileggi – Staff Member

I have lived in West Swindon since 1980 and have seen many changes to the area and community. Having used and supported local schools and facilities for my three children, I am now back using local schools and facilities with my grandchildren.

Throughout my career I have taught at local colleges and been involved with apprenticeships and work-based learning. I studied Education at Oxford Brookes University and subsequently taught there. More recently I ran my own business for over 10 years. I currently hold a learning support position at Lydiard Park Academy.

Why become a LAB Member?

When my own children were at school I joined parent groups to support the school. Now that I have a lot more experience and understanding of education I can bring value to the role of Governance.



Kathryn Sanders - Community Member, Vice Chair & Safeguarding LAB Representative

Kathryn is a recent retiree from education with over twenty-five years of experience working in Swindon secondary schools. Her career covered a range of responsibilities, including teacher of English, head of department, and as Advanced Skills Teacher with consultant responsibilities in the local authority. For twelve years, Kathryn was an assistant principal with experience of strategic leadership in attainment and progress, raising teaching standards, continuing professional development, pastoral, safeguarding, personal development, pupil premium funding and data protection. She also performed some consultancy work with primary schools in Wiltshire and Bristol. At Lydiard Park Academy, Kathryn is the vice-chair of the local advisory board and is the link governor for safeguarding and wellbeing.



Susannah Fernandez - Community Member

I moved to Swindon in 2005. My eldest child attended LPA for 3 years and my youngest has recently joined. I have a background in project management (technical and business), and spent the past 10 years focusing on Data Governance leading a policy, risk and control function. I have also provided mentoring for a local charity supporting families going through the adoption process.

I'm genuinely delighted to be given the opportunity to support LPA and the Academy Trust as a Local Advisory Board member; keen to use my skill and experience to deliver value to the teachers and pupils, both current and future.



Mike Pook - Community Member

I have lived in Swindon since birth, and have two children, one of whom is now attending Abbey Park Academy.

I have always worked in IT, and for the last six years into the Defence Sector for an SME. I am based in Corsham for work.

I volunteered to become a LAB member because I felt it was a great way to try and help the community. The skills needed to perform a LAB member role suit my professional background and so this felt like a great way to help.

All my interactions with the trust so far have shown a collective desire to try and do the best possible for everyone within the Trust settings. So being able to help in any way possible seemed like a great opportunity.