

# Q&A

WITH  
RICHARD  
MONK

# TRUSTEE TALK

WHY GET INVOLVED IN GOVERNANCE?



**RICHARD RECENTLY JOINED US AS A VALUABLE MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HE'S NOW BEEN WITH US FOR SIX MONTHS AND IS ENTHUSIASTIC TO SHARE HIS EXPERIENCE SO FAR...**

## **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TRUSTEE AND A GOVERNOR?**

A Trustee is a member of the Trust Board and a Governor is a member of a Local Academy Committee.

## **WHY DID YOU APPLY TO BE A TRUSTEE?**

I think it's really important that people are able to become the best versions of themselves. Schools are a vital part of helping to equip young people for this. Because of this, I wanted to use my skills and experience to help ensure that schools were as good as they could be in doing this. It also makes me feel good as I believe that I am doing something that is worthwhile.

## **DO YOU NEED EXPERIENCE?**

Everyone has the experience, whether this is knowing a school, community, or professional skill. However, no experience of working in education is necessary. Training is provided for new Trustees and Governors and colleagues are happy to help.

## **WHAT DOES THE TRUST BOARD DO?**

The Trust Board is responsible for working with InMAT's CEO to ensure that it's fulfilling its objectives. It has 3 core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction;
- holding senior executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of the staff; and
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure that it's money is well spent.

## **WHAT IS A LAC AND WHAT DO THEY DO?**

A Local Academy Committee is a group of volunteers (governors), with an interest in education, who represent the community of a school. All governors contribute to discussions about the school's vision and ethos, targets, performance and community engagement. They decide matters based on the information and discussions presented and according to their principles and understanding of what is best for the pupils of the school. Governors also hold senior leaders to account through monitoring, support and challenge.

## **WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR ROLE?**

I can see that the contribution of Trustees and Governors has made a real difference to the experience of pupils at our schools. This makes it very worthwhile.

I have also attended training that has helped me understand what the key areas are for ensuring successful schools. I also better understand the financial and performance data and I am starting to feel more confident about asking questions.

The team are friendly and supportive. This makes working with the Trust enjoyable.

## **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT INVOLVED?**

As a Trustee you will attend approximately 6 meetings a year. These meetings are usually during the normal working day. As a Governor you will attend 3-6 meetings a year. These meetings are usually after the end of the school day.

## **WHAT IS IN IT FOR THE TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS?**

It's a good way of meeting and learning to work effectively with people who may have different experiences and perspectives to you. It can help you get back into work or further your career: gaining knowledge and experience of a new sector as a non-executive director (this is what the Trustee role is).

Trustees and Governors do not get paid but they can claim for travelling expenses and for childcare costs. Also, training is provided.

## **HOW DO YOU APPLY?**

We're always looking for people to become part of the governance of the schools and the Trust. At the moment we are particularly looking for Governors in the Kettering area and Northampton. However, we always welcome anyone who has an interest in becoming a Governor or Trustee. Please contact 01604 422596 or [carole.kirby@inmat.org.uk](mailto:carole.kirby@inmat.org.uk) to express your interest.