

CHELMSFORD COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO FILL VACANCIES

Chelmsford College are recruiting new Members to fill vacancies to strengthen its Board of Governors. It is hoped to recruit new Members who are able to contribute from an Accountancy/Audit, Business Employers or Managers perspective as it is important that the College is responsive to workforce trends and skills needs of the local community.

A Brief Introduction to Governance at Chelmsford College

National Context

This is an interesting, and challenging, time for Governing Bodies in Further Education Colleges. National Government has been focussing its attention on the sector recently and the FE White Paper has emphasized the need for Colleges to meet the ongoing skills needs of its local community and nationally.

College Governance is defined as “governance as the act of governing – not managing. Governance provides strategic leadership and direction to an organisation. It sets and approves policies and the budget; it defines expectations, delegates powers and verifies performance towards meeting its strategic aims and objectives to the advantage of its students and to the local community.”

Statutory Position

Chelmsford College is a general further education Corporation, established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. The Corporation’s Instrument and Articles of Government provide the legal basis on which it operates, specifying the composition of the Corporation (Governing Body) of the College, the way in which it must conduct its business, its duties and responsibilities, with regard to the discharge of its financial responsibilities.

Students at Chelmsford College

Chelmsford College offers a wide variety of courses, both vocational and professional, with campuses in Moulsham Street and Princes Road in Chelmsford. The majority of students are aged between 16 and 18 years old, studying for vocational qualifications on a full time basis. In addition, there are opportunities for students to undertake part time courses, including apprenticeships and for gaining professional qualifications. The facilities have been upgraded in recent years and there is now a new Hair and Beauty suite at Princes Road, new provision for high needs students at Moulsham Street, revamped reception area at the Princes Road campus, as well as new communal areas for students. A new Construction Centre is being built at the

present time. The College is currently responding to the Government's policy to increase the number of apprentices and a dedicated team are involved in matching students with employers, giving advantages to both. The College now offers a blended learning model for students, comprising some study in person at the College campuses and some study remotely using online facilities.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body comprises individuals who together can contribute across the range of topics presented at Board meetings. The work of the Board of Governors is to ensure the highest possible quality of teaching and learning for our students, provided in a stable financial environment, mindful of risk and promoting opportunities for their future in employment or further study. Governors would be expected to have knowledge and expertise in contributing to discussion in at least one of the above areas.

Time Commitment

The Board of Corporation meets four times a year, usually on Friday afternoons. This has the advantage of Governors seeing the College in action. These dates are notified one year in advance. In addition, Committees meet three times a year, one meeting per term. The start time of Committees is wholly determined by the members of the Committee. The main Committees are:

- Quality and Learners
- Audit

Governors are expected to sit on one of these Committees depending on their ability to contribute to the subject area. Governors work together on the Board in a voluntary capacity, although reasonable expenses will be paid.

There are two Governors' Development Days per annum which focus on strategic issues and the student experience.

Appointment Process

Applications to become a Governor are considered by the Search, Governance & Remuneration Committee based on a completed application form, an applicant's personal knowledge and experience, as well as the skills needed by the Board. Prospective Governors are invited to a short interview with a group of Governors.

Becoming a Governor

This rather brief note only describes a little of the business of Governance at Chelmsford College and more information can be provided to interested parties. We would be very happy to discuss in greater detail any aspects of interest or concern. In addition, if you would like to visit the College please

contact us and that can be arranged. Being a Governor at Chelmsford College can be a very satisfying experience and can really make a difference to our students, as well as being a good way of individuals contributing to the local community.

If you would like to discuss becoming a Governor, please email governance@chelmsford.ac.uk or call Principal's PA on 01245 265611

Thank you for reading this introduction to becoming a Governor at Chelmsford College.