

Woodcote High School (WHS)

Woodcote High School is a single academy trust overseeing one oversubscribed secondary school with a good educational track record in the Coulsdon area of Croydon. The trust is seeking three experienced trustees/non-executive directors to further strengthen governance of the trust, one of whom will become a committee chair. Board meetings will be held at either Woodcote High School CR5 2EH or virtually.

About the trust

Woodcote High School is a single academy trust (SAT) is on a journey to build on its strong academic history and is determined to become an Outstanding school. It is currently a Good (Ofsted 2018) school. Woodcote wants to ensure that its students live by its ASPIRE principles of high Ambition, Self-reliance, Perseverance, Inquisitiveness, Respect and Enthusiasm for life. WHS is one of only a few SATs in Croydon appreciated by community and oversubscribed because of its strong family ethos and happy students which sits on border of the Boroughs of Reigate, Sutton and Croydon.

The trust currently provides an education for 1,260 students and 155 members of staff and has a budget of £7.3m. A new Headmaster, who is also the trust's Accounting Officer, was appointed in 2019. The Headmaster is a charismatic 'tour de force' who has already instigated a few capital projects to improve the learning environment for pupils and improved communication with parents.

Plans for the future

1. **Governance and financial oversight** – To strengthen the Board by recruiting experienced trustees equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience to oversee an academy trust
2. **Compliance** - To work with executives to manage change, enable compliance with the trust's statutory and contractual duties and ensure it continues operating as a going concern.
3. **Pupil outcomes** – To remain on the path to Outstanding by the next Ofsted inspection.

Trust ethos & values

Woodcote do not just wish to be an outstanding school in every respect but one of the most outstanding schools in the entire country. Woodcote has unashamedly high aspirations for the students in care both pastorally and academically so that every child who joins will have every opportunity to reach their full potential and leave exceptionally well-placed for a happy and successful future. Woodcote believe that Children are talented in many different ways and so it is their duty to ensure that their sportsmen and women, musicians, artists, and sculptors are all encouraged to explore the unique nature of their interests and talents.

Role summary

Number of positions advertised: 3

Role 1-3 – Non-Executive Director and Charity Trustee

Trustees – or non-executive directors - are both charity trustees and company directors of the academy trust. The

core functions of their role are: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding executive leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of a charitable company funded by the public purse.

The board of trustees manages the business of the academy trust and may exercise all the powers of the trust in compliance with its charitable objects, company and charity law.

Person specification

Every trustee is expected to abide by the seven principles of public life set out by Lord Nolan: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

The Competency Framework for Governance (DfE) 2017 details the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for effective governance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/583733/Competency_framework_for_governance_.pdf

The strategic expertise required for these roles includes:

Essential (due to multiple roles, candidates may be accepted who possess one or more of the skills below)

- CEO/ executive leadership experience of change/restructure/turnaround
- Corporate/charity Governance & compliance
- HR
- Secondary education leadership
- Committee chair

Desirable

- Negotiation skills
- Executive performance management and pay

Time commitment

8-12 hours /month minimum. The board has established committees to oversee education and resources and convenes a pay committee once annually.

Location of board meetings and trust website

<https://www.woodcotehigh.com>

Woodcote High School
Meadow Rise
Coulston
CR5 2EH

Governance structure

<https://www.woodcotehigh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/The-Governing-Board.pdf>

Background on academy trusts

Academy trusts, which are charities run independently of local authority control, now account for 74% of secondary

schools and 31% of primaries – and their number is growing all the time.

If the schools are to fulfil their potential, the trust boards need non-executives (known in charity law as trustees) to bring a wide range of skills and experience to help guide strategy, ensure their ambitions can be soundly financed and keep their schools up to the mark delivering for their pupils.

Trusteeship is a voluntary, unpaid role for people who have the energy and skills to make a real contribution to shaping the future of our schools. You do not need to have any specialist knowledge of education.

Applications

Academy Ambassadors is a non-profit programme which recruits senior business leaders and professionals as volunteer non-executive directors onto the boards of multi-academy trusts.

If you are interested in applying for the role please click on the register now button.

In the interests of safeguarding and in accordance with DfE requirements, all trustee appointments will be subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring service check.

Please note: candidates should live within reasonable travelling distance of the trust and/or have a link with the region. For more information, please call 0207 952 8556 or visit www.academyambassadors.org.

Key dates – Deadline 6 December 2020

We strongly recommend applying as early as you can to have the best possible chance of being considered as we may change the closing date if we have received sufficient applications.