Governors 2026



NAME: **Melissa Askew, Clerk**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Qualified as a solicitor, before moving into legal education. Works at Leeds Beckett University, in the Law School, and has responsibility for staffing and deployment, and undergraduate provision.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Parent of current student

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Compliance Committee, Nominations Committee.



NAME: **Marcus Hirst, Deputy Clerk**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: A Senior Polyglot Software Engineer responsible for customer facing financial functions. Trained in architecture and construction, Marcus has spent his career tackling multidisciplinary projects and resolving technical issues.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Bootham Old Scholar.

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Compliance Committee. IT Link Governor



NAME: **Andrew Fisher, Treasurer**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Previously a Partner in a Top 4 Accountancy firm. Has held a range of positions on the boards of Directors in commercial organisations. Treasurer of BOSSF for over 25 years.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Old scholar, father and uncle also old scholars

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Finance and Resources Committee, Compliance Committee

Governors 2026

NAME: **Rachel Hicks**



PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Marketing and communications consultant specialising in charities and education; Executive Director of Choir Schools' Association; former Marketing Manager of Leighton Park a Quaker School in Reading and a previous chair of the Association for Admissions, Marketing and Communications in Independent Schools (AMCIS).

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Parent of an Old Scholar.

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Education Committee, Junior School and EYFS link Governor; Marketing and Fundraising link Governor

NAME: **Graham Ralph**



PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Taught at Bootham for 32 years (initially in residence), retiring as Deputy Head in 2012.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: A Quaker and parent of two old scholars. A member of Friargate Quaker Meeting in York; recently a governor at Breckenbrough, a state maintained Quaker school in Thirsk.

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Safeguarding Governor, Compliance Committee, Education Committee. Quaker Care and Oversight Committee. Pastoral, Boarding and Safeguarding Committee

NAME: **Michael Sessions**



PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Previously Deputy Managing Director of Sessions of York and Managing Director of Soabar Sessions Ltd. Previous Governor of the Retreat, The York Theatre Royal and the Chairman of the York Arts Centre. Currently a trustee and Chairman of three charitable trusts.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: A Quaker who is a member of the Kirkbymoorside Quaker Meeting. Previously the treasurer of Friargate Meeting. Co-author of "Great Lives" a sequence of biographical essays on eminent Old Scholars.

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Finance and Resources Committee, Nominations Committee

Governors 2026



NAME: **Dominic Fairbrass**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Junior Doctor in paediatrics. Also serves on the British Medical Association regional council for Yorkshire and Humber.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Old Scholar. Attends Hull Quaker Meeting House

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: SEND Link Governor, Education Committee, H&S Committee



NAME: **Henrietta Stock**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Energy Engineer primarily working in energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies and also leading on business sustainability strategy. Worked across a number of industries including energy, water, construction and finance. Currently working for Aviva leading on supporting climate transition.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Current Bootham Parent. School STEM ambassador at the school

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Education Committee, Governance and Compliance Committee



NAME: Catherine Davidson

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Read Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at Oxford University. Senior financial services leader with over 20 years experience in major UK and international financial institutions.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Secretary and member of BOSA for 10 years. Bootham Old Scholar.

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Nominations Committee, Finance and Resources Committee

Governors 2026



NAME: **Carole Cameron**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND A career in Education spent in independent and state schools in the UK and the Caribbean.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: Professional respect for Quaker values

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES Pastoral, Boarding and Safeguarding, Education Committee



NAME: **Marcus Elmhirst**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: A former Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army followed by a career in Cybersecurity for KPMG, Control Risks and Infosys; working across multiple global sectors.

LINKS TO BOOTHAM/QUAKERISM: A former Bootham pupil from Lower Schoolroom to College 2.

COMMITTEES AND LINK ROLES: Finance and Resources Committee