

Ms Zoe Camenzuli**Year 8 parent**

My name is Zoe Camenzuli and my son Joshua is a student in year 8. As some of you may know, I was actively involved in the campaign to hold the council to account over the cuts made to our school last year. Forest Hill school in my humble opinion is a very special school. It is a school where the staff go above and beyond to make sure that no boy is left behind, a place where boys are nurtured, given opportunities and where they achieve. I will never be embarrassed or apologise for supporting the amazing staff at our school.

If elected as PG I will do all that I can to see if the local authority can renegotiate the terms of the PFI contract the school is currently tied into. We are all aware that funding to schools is being squeezed but that doesn't mean we need to lower our standards. We just need to be innovative, to make sure that children don't suffer. I would also like to look into the viability of recruiting an army of parent volunteers, not to do the jobs of teachers but to bolster and support especially in the areas of mentoring, careers advice and assisting with clubs. And I will also make sure that I am contactable so that parents will be able to talk to me if they need to.

I have never been a PG before so have no formal experience I have over 20 years experience in the administration and accounts sector, I also am a volunteer working with families in need and the elderly. What I will bring to the job is a determination that the school that has educated my dad and served the community so well, does not just do ok but continues to improve and serve all sections of the community as it has always done for many many years to come

Mr Clive Caseley**Year 7 parent**

I grew up in south London, attending schools in Greenwich and Bexley, and our family moved from Lambeth to Forest Hill almost ten years ago. My son Alexander has just begun Year 7 at FHS, his twin sister Isabella is at Sydenham Girls and their younger brother Oliver is at Dalmain Primary School.

My professional background is in communications, PR and marketing, which I believe would help me to make a positive contribution as a governor.

What experience do I feel would help me as a parent governor?

In 2005 I set up Verve Communications to provide specialist advice and support to public services. Based in Southwark, we have worked with NHS organisations, local authorities and voluntary organisations across south London, including in Lewisham.

Prior to this, I spent six years as the marketing and fundraising director for the mental health charity MIND, and have worked in education as a director of the Learning and Skills Development Agency (a Department for Education agency in turnaround), as Communications Director for Ealing Council, and as an Executive Director of Arts Council England, where I was responsible for leading the case for national arts funding across four government departments.

I have also been a trustee of St Mungo's, London's largest homeless charity, and advised the organisation on PR, communications and fundraising.

Why am I putting myself forward?

I like the school's ethos and approach, and see FHS as a genuinely committed part of our local community. I believe that as parents we have a duty to participate and support the school.

What would I prioritise?

I have been impressed with the leadership and staff team at FHS, and would like to support them to continue the really bright start to this school year.

Already, I've seen and heard about great things at the school. I would prioritise celebrating the achievements of our sons, and working to get across the positive story that is FHS.

I believe it is important to keep parents up to date about life at the school, communicating clearly, with openness and honesty, and I would like to help develop further the positive dialogue with families, partner agencies and our community.

Dr Helen Charman**Year 7 parent**

I am a cultural learning professional with over 25 years' experience leading education programmes across the cultural sector, including most recently as part of the directorate responsible for mobilising a major capital project for the new Design Museum. Relevant professional experience for the role of Parent Governor includes leading on organisational strategy; education policy; fundraising; curriculum development; evaluation; and staff and project management. Relevant personal experience for my candidacy is based on our choice of Forest Hill School for our son, recently started in Year 7. This choice was made both on the basis of the school's inclusive and community based ethos, and for its core commitment to a balanced curriculum that values the arts and creativity alongside STEM subjects and the humanities.

Forest Hill School is one of a decreasing number of maintained schools committed to an inclusive curriculum that understands the critical role of the arts in the development of the individual child. Not only do the arts have intrinsic value – promoting self-confidence, self-expression and problem solving skills, but they also align with the UK's fastest growing economic sector, the creative industries. If education is about setting up a young person with the skills and aptitudes an increasingly complex future will demand, then an integrated approach has to be the backbone of the curriculum. If elected as Parent Governor, I would harness my professional skills to work with energy and commitment to contribute to the future of the school at a demanding time across the landscape of maintained education.

Mr Tom Dunn**Year 7 & Year 9 parent**

I have two boys at FHS, one in year 9 and one in in year 7. What makes the school standout for me are the strength and benefits of its mixed ability, community ethos, which I see making a huge contribution to the way that my children are learning and developing. I also like the teachers I meet and am struck by their commitment, individuality and the care they show towards the boys.

I would feel privileged to have the opportunity to make a contribution to the school's success in the years ahead. I have a lot of experience providing advice and support to organisations. I sit on the boards of 3 charities and I advise them both on strategy and understanding legal issues.

I am a lawyer with 20 years' experience. For the first half of my career, I worked as a housing lawyer in south London, acting for tenants in dispute with their landlords and for homeless people trying to get housed by local authorities. I then ran a public legal education project for 3 years on Clapham Park Estate, helping residents find out more about how the law could be useful to them in their everyday lives. I now work in an international law firm, where I manage the free work that the firm does for charities and people who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer.

Mr Jason Groves Year 7 parent

I am standing to be a parent/governor because I believe it is vital for schools to hear the voices of local parents. I also have skills that I hope would be useful to the school at this time, along with a commitment to good state education and three boys of my own.

I have lived in Forest Hill for the last 14 years, and I love the area. I would like the opportunity to put something back.

My eldest son started at Forest Hill Boys this term and I would love my two younger sons to attend the school in the future. I would like to help make the school as good as it can be – for them, and all boys in the community.

I am a senior national newspaper journalist of more than 20 years standing, reporting mainly on politics, including education policy.

In this role I have developed a strong knowledge of public relations, government and communications – areas where the school has said it would welcome more expertise.

I also have substantial experience of making difficult and sometimes complex decisions under pressure, including dealing with management issues.

I hope my widespread experience in this field could help the school get through what has plainly been a challenging time in its history.

Ms Damaris Hammerli Year 8 parent

I am a mum of three, the eldest of whom is in year 8 at FHS, with the two younger ones at Eliot Bank Primary School. Originally from Switzerland, I moved to Sussex at the age of 16 and have lived in London for the past 18 years.

Following my degree in Psychology and working with young people in Northern Ireland in conflict resolution in my early 20's, I completed an MSc in International Development and worked in the city for 5 years. My husband and I started our own company once we had kids. My role within the company is to do

the business accounts and admin, which I continue to do. I am also treasurer of the PTA at Eliot Bank.

Recently I have returned to my original love of psychology and working with young people. I volunteer two days a week at Eliot Bank school supporting children with difficulties in maths and I'm hoping to pursue a PhD in Educational Psychology in the next few years.

I am good with people, with great listening and communication skills, and an excellent logistical problem solver, all of which I feel are useful skills for a parent governor.

I am very committed to FHS, which was my only choice of school for my son, and the past year has shown that the FHS community is extremely passionate and will go to great lengths to support the school. I would relish the opportunity to give something back to that community by using my financial expertise and knowledge of young people to assist the governing body.

Ms Gail Hutcheon Year 7 parent

My name is Gail Hutcheon and I am a Year 7 parent. I work as an HR Officer with the local authority and I have experience of having served as a parent governor at a primary school in the Borough. I am also currently serving as a parent Governor for a secondary school in Lewisham. I am a team worker, a good listener and discreet and professional in my approach. I believe that a child's education is crucial to their academic achievements and just as importantly to their social and other life skills.

I wish to be considered as parent governor because I would like to contribute to the governance and future development of Forest Hill School. My ambition in joining the school's Governing Body is to contribute to improving the school's capacity to provide an inclusive and rounded education to all of its pupils (improving standards while reducing the difference in attainment across pupils) and strengthen the school's reputation and appeal within the community. My time as a parent governor has ensured that I have an in depth understanding of the statutory and strategic responsibilities that comes with being a governor and have gained a wealth of experience and training in relevant areas such as Governance, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Equality and Diversity.

I feel that I understand the requirements of the role and would be approachable and accessible to parents. I would like to use my skills to continue to build on the success of Forest Hill as the school of choice for children and teachers, attracting top talent to work at the school and bringing ever more evolving ideas on how to educate our children to prepare them for life after Forest Hill.

Ms Beatrice Joseph Year 9 parent

I am putting myself forward for the role of parent governor as I am interested in the welfare of young people in general and realise I need to extend this further and contribute more to the school and community where I am living and where my son is receiving his education.

I have been a careers adviser for a number of years and used to be part of Connexions in Lewisham. I am accustomed to working in schools and have also been involved in preparing SEN documents and liaising with teachers and support staff in schools and therefore have some understanding of the systems and day to day workings. I have seen the effects of cuts to funding and withdrawal of services in the borough and how this has effected the education in Lewisham in the extreme.

I feel that I would be able to come from a different angle and encourage other parents to get involved so that we can promote a real school community that ensures that our children succeed in a climate that is very challenging to say the least and hope you will consider me for a position.

Mr Tarun Kumar Year 11 parent

Ms Mili Matin Year 7 parent

I am an experienced Crown Prosecutor (criminal solicitor) and mother of 3 children. I am passionate about education and educating the next generation, inspiring confidence and installing value of good education into young people is the key to successful career and life. I believe education changes perceptions and breaks down the barriers and I will bring wealth of knowledge experience into school.

I will work tirelessly with governor's, parents, teachers, local authority and students to ensure that school delivers a world class education which benefits all students from all walks of life.

Personally, I was born and grew up locally and have a son and a nephew studying at FHS, I also had four brothers who went to FHS. I am dedicated and motivated to work hard for the benefit of the whole Forest Hill Community.

Finally, I work well with others as a team and have a strong interest in understanding different points of view. As an individual I am creatively focussed, balancing empathy with determination and I would welcome an opportunity to contribute to the school.

Mr Ludwig Mensah Year 10 parent

I was born in Ghana and came to the UK when I was 3 years old. I attended state schools in Redbridge and Barking and graduated from the University of Wales in Cardiff.

I feel that I have a lot to offer as an active member of the local community with experience of being a school governor in a local primary school (Dalmain Primary School) where I served as a member of the Finance Committee.

Academic success is and should be very important to all parents, pupils and teachers in the school, there is no escaping that, however, I firmly believe that

Forest Hill School is and should be about more than this. Just as important as the information that we put into our children are the abilities, interests and attitudes that we bring out of them.

If elected I would like to help the school and the governors continue their focus on the development of the "whole child" so that more children can attain their full potential and not only will we produce academically successful pupils, but also well rounded, confident, healthy, lifelong learners able to comfortably take their place in society and meet the demands of the modern world.

Mr David Plews Year 7 parent

I am a retired teacher and father of a boy in year 7 and would very much like to support the school in its endeavours to educate him by filling the role of Parent Governor.

My thirty years plus as a teacher in the Secondary, Special – and for the last twenty years, Primary sectors of education give me a huge insight into the needs of state schools in today's era of austerity. I was also – for my last four years – the teacher governor at the school, so am familiar with the demands of the role of school governor. I always took an active role in the governor meetings and enjoyed working with individuals from the wide spectrum of background and experience that such bodies must incorporate.

I was able, through both personal projects and community organised schemes, to raise several thousand pounds for my last school (Deptford Park Primary) and would hope to bring this experience and energy to Forest Hill. I have already demonstrated my commitment to supporting the school in my role as Schools liaison officer for Beckenham Rugby Club. Last year I gave up a week of my spare time to referee the school's various year groups in their rugby tournament.

Being retired I am in the fortunate position of being able to commit to whatever meeting times are required and would be honoured if the parents of Forest Hill School pupils should choose to elect me to the governing body.