



Athena Learning Trust

#1 | Spring 1

Half Term Newsletter

ALWAYS LEARNING TOGETHER

Discovering Our Purpose: Who We Are and What We Do

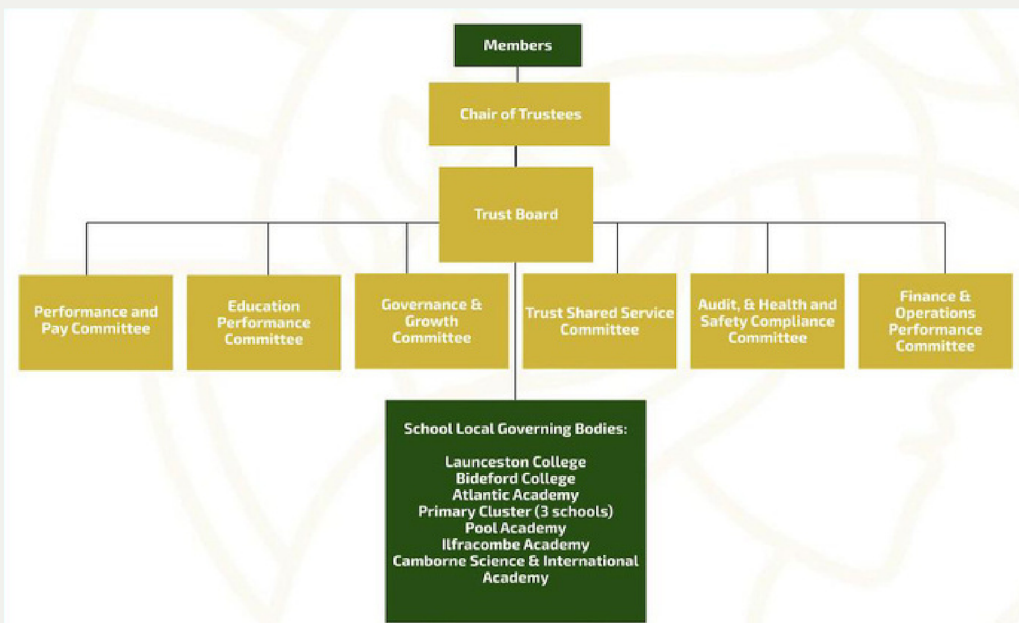
Welcome to Athena Learning Trust

Founded in 2022, we are a family of schools championing wisdom, knowledge, and learning. Named after Athena, we stand for a world where every child attends a great school. Together, we learn from the best thinkers, striving to be a leading trust for knowledge-building. We are dedicated to delivering world-class support that transforms the lives of our communities. We understand that children are the future, and our mission is to inspire and empower them to dream big, take responsibility, and be kind.



Governance Structure

Consists of: Members, Trustees, Local Governors



Welcome to the Team

We are delighted to welcome the below new governors to the team:

Mark Ruddick

Mark has been an art and photography teacher at Bideford College for 27 years. He has always believed in the importance of the college in our community and the difference they can make to young lives. Mark is looking forward to being part of the College's Journey as a Staff Governor.



Half Term Overview

This term we have seen some significant changes as we officially welcomed Camborne Science and International Academy to the Trust. The members of their Local Governing Body were voted in at their first meeting, including new staff governors and a new community governor. In addition, governors voted long-standing member Steve Webb as their new Chair. Steve's expertise as a previous primary school teacher brings a wealth of knowledge to his role, and he's been working on looking at the differing expectations as a chair.

Outstanding Achievements

Two of our schools were inspected by Ofsted this term and whilst the official reports are not yet available, we would like to give a huge thanks to all of our governors who play a crucial role during inspection. Thank you for your ongoing dedication!

Hear from Our Governors



This half term we are hearing a piece from **Carla Barnard, Primary Cluster Chair.**

I first became a governor towards the tail end of 2016. I joined a Full Governing Body as our school at that time was still under the Local Authority's regulation. I was enlisted because there was a need for specific finance experience on the board for oversight of school budgets, and being a company director with accounting experience I

sort of fit the bill. The overall role then was slightly different to that of our LGB roles now, but my reason for joining then remains the same as why I'm still here 8 years later - I want to do my best to be a part of ensuring that all of our pupils have the opportunities to fulfill their own potential, for them to know they have no limits! To know that the voluntary role that we undertake, perhaps, has a small part to play in impacting the futures of the children within our community.

Being a governor can be challenging, there is a lot to learn and we are sometimes faced with difficult situations that need robust questioning, but it is also immensely rewarding - seeing pupils and staff progress over the years, watching as milestones are hit and transitions successfully made. We build relationships with staff and pupils, get to know the 'behind the scenes', and are there to ask questions. We raise challenges with our leaders and set strategic direction for our schools, to make sure they're providing the best education that they can and we do that through our monitoring visits and with our LGB meetings. There is a (sometimes significant) time commitment, but I think that most of us feel that the time we give is well spent and appreciated. Schools need governors with a wide range of experience, you don't need to come from an educational background (I don't), we all bring a different way of thinking to our governing board and those differing perspectives make for excellent challenge. Being a part of a board where we listen and learn has allowed me to grow in confidence, become a leader, and hopefully give the confidence to others to have a voice and raise challenge. Ultimately, no matter our place within the Governance structure, we're all doing it to support our wonderful schools and their staff to benefit the education of the children within our Trust and provide them with better chances for their futures. I've enjoyed my time so far, am incredibly proud of what we do, and would definitely recommend others to get involved!

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Tuesday 26th March

We are hosting an event where you can learn about the roles and responsibilities of being a governor.

You'll be able to get a real insight into the role, meet current governors, the governance lead and get a chance to ask any questions you may have.

Like the sound of this? Register your interest at www.athenalearningtrust.uk/upcoming-event

Contact Us

We value your interest and encourage you to reach out with any enquiries or to seek further information. Please feel free to contact us using the provided details below:

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