



East Coast College Board 2026/27

<https://www.eastcoast.ac.uk/corporation-governors/>

Meet Our ECC Governance Team



Ian Lomax
Chair



Kirk Lower
Vice Chair & Chair Governance
Remuneration & Search



Rachael Botley
Vice Chair & Chair
People Committee



Paul Padda
Principal & CEO



Rachel Kirk
Chair Quality &
Curriculum



David Blake
Chair Finance &
General Purposes



Giles Kerkham
Chair Audit
to 31/12/2026



Mike Dowdall
Chair Estates &
Independent Senior



Peter Blackburn
ECETA Chair

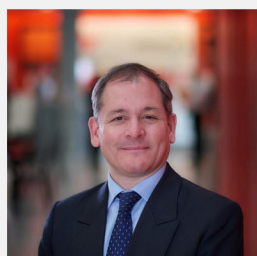
Meet Our ECC Governance Team



Teresa Sharman
Governor



Robin Jackson
Governor



Mark Buckton
Governor



Vicki Paterson
Governor



Bill Farrow
Governor



Peter Carr
Governor



Dawn Carman-
Jones Governor



Mark Bobby
Governor



Michael Gray
Governor



Katie Kerridge
Staff Governor



Ana Dias
Staff Governor



Andrew Dowsett
Associate Governor

Meet the Governance Team

Ian Lomax Chair

Ian is a highly experienced director and engineer with over 40 years' technical, operational and managerial experience in the field of high voltage motors and has worked internationally.

Ian has a BSc Mechanical Engineering, a MSc Engineering Business Management and is a former Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Prior to becoming Chair, Ian was Chair of Finance & General Resources.

Kirk Lower Vice Chair and Chair Governance Remuneration & Search

Kirk has extensive leadership experience across the NHS and further education sectors. As NHS National Lead for Apprenticeships and Widening Participation he helped expand apprenticeships to over 25,000 annual starts, played a key role in introducing the Care Certificate and the Registered Nurse Apprenticeship, ran a NHS college providing internships for young people with learning disabilities and led a partnership with the Prince's Trust getting 5000 young people into NHS employment. In addition, he was the Chair of IFATE's Health and Science Route Panel, approving over 100 new apprenticeships

Kirk is currently the Chair of the King's Trust's Health and Social Care Advisory Board and a Trustee of the National Examining Board for Dental Nurses. He holds postgraduate qualifications in law and human resources and is a Fellow of the RSA.

Rachael Botley Vice Chair and Chair People

Rachael runs a consultancy specialising in school business and governance, supporting maintained schools and academy trusts across the East of England. Since 2019, she has been a Department for Education-accredited School Resource Management Adviser, helping schools improve governance, workforce planning and financial sustainability. She also serves as an Independent Panel Member for school admissions and exclusion appeals.

Rachael holds a MSc in Business Management (University of Bath), a BA in French (UCL) and a postgraduate diploma in marketing (CIM). Rachael was awarded Fellowship of the Institute of School Business Leadership (ISBL) in 2021.

Rachel Kirk Chair Quality & Curriculum

Rachel is a retired further education senior leader and education consultant. She has supported colleges and universities with higher education provision, degree apprenticeships, quality assurance and curriculum development, including helping a national college group secure Degree Awarding Powers.

Rachel holds a Doctorate in Education, is a Fellow of Advance HE, and has extensive experience as an external examiner and university panel member.

David Blake Chair Finance & General Purposes

David is an experienced Chief Financial Officer and corporate finance professional with a strong track record of transforming finance functions in complex UK and international organisations. A strategic and commercially focused leader, he has successfully led finance, IT and procurement teams, delivering stronger business performance, improved controls, increased return on investment and sustainable organisational change.

David was Chair of the Board 2021-2026.

Giles Kerkham Chair Audit

Giles runs the Not for Profit and Education services team at Larking Gowen, Chartered Accountants, where his clients are mainly located in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, many of which are academies or other charities. Giles leads audits and charity independent examinations; he also advises charities and social enterprises on strategy and structures, formation of charities and social enterprises, tax and governance.

Mike Dowdall Chair Estates

Mike was Development Adviser to New Anglia LEP (Employee), providing property and site development advice on Projects which NALEP were involved in or were being requested to support. A major aspect of this included provision of technical advice on Enterprise Zone issues which were overseen by NALEP across Norfolk and Suffolk. Prior to this Mike had roles in Economic Development for various Local Authorities.

Peter Blackburn ECETA Chair

Peter has been involved in running Operations, Manufacturing, Capital build and H&S in the UK, Ireland, USA, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, China and Finland in many different industries over a 25 year period. Peter has played a major role in 3 international Factory startups, (Ireland, Malaysia and Finland) and is now Vice President of Operations at Thurne-Middleby UK. Peter is a Bachelor of Engineering, a Chartered Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers UK, CEng. Chartered Member of Engineering New Zealand CMEngNZ and Member of ASME

Paul Padda Principal and CEO

Paul has worked at East Coast College for over 10 years and was appointed Principal and CEO in April 2024, having previously served as Deputy Principal.. Passionate about inclusion, skills development and economic growth, Paul has a strong understanding of the further education sector and is committed to creating an inclusive environment where students and staff can thrive. He is passionate about supporting learners to achieve their potential and working with local communities and employers to deliver the skills and training needed for economic growth.

Paul has a Certificate in Education, MSc in Computer Science and an honours degree in Law.

Meet the Governance Team

Teresa Sharman

Teresa is a qualified chartered audit professional with over 25 years' experience in public sector internal audit. She is currently Head of Internal Audit at Eastern Internal Audit Services, leading the consortium's audit provision and strategic direction across local authorities and other public sector organisations. Teresa also brings non-executive experience, having previously served as a Board Member and Chair of an Audit Committee for a housing trust.

Robin Jackson

Robin has extensive experience in the further education and awarding sectors, working closely with employers to meet skills needs. Now self-employed, he continues to support education and assessment initiatives, drawing on a career that has included senior roles in qualification development, delivery and assessment.

Robin holds a doctorate from the University of Southampton and is a Chartered Forester, Chartered Educational Assessor, and Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association.

Mark Bukton

Mark has extensive experience in employment, skills and training, spanning operational management, project management and governance. Following service as an Army officer and roles in the construction sector, he held senior positions with CITB and NOCN, leading awarding, quality assurance and operational functions. He is currently Associate Director for Employment and Skills at Opergy, specialising in workforce development and skills needs within the renewable energy sector and its supply chain.

Vicki Paterson

Vicki is a former Executive Headteacher with over 40 years' experience in education, including 27 years in senior leadership roles. She is an expert in special educational needs and currently serves as an independent Chair for admissions and exclusion appeal panels. Vicki successfully led three inner-London schools to Ofsted Outstanding and is recognised for her commitment to inclusion, equality and school improvement. She was appointed a Dame in 2013 for Services to Education.

Bill Farrow

Bill has extensive experience as an educator, management consultant and volunteer, working across the public, private and third sectors both in the UK and internationally. He has held a number of non-executive and trustee roles, including Chair of Norfolk Blood Bikes, Trustee of Anglia Care Trust and Non-Executive Director of an NHS Mental Health Trust. Bill is passionate about supporting young people and previously led the successful turnaround of a residential special school. He is also an experienced sailing coach and recipient of a Service to Sport award.

Peter Carr

Peter has held senior leadership roles across higher education, estates management, accessibility and the charitable sector. He currently chairs several accessibility and disability organisations, including panels for the London Legacy Development Corporation and Tottenham Hotspur, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Global Disability Innovation Hub. Peter is the founder of Standing Start/Neurokinex, a pioneering charity supporting people with spinal cord injuries. His previous roles include Director of Estates at Queen Mary University of London and senior leadership positions at the University of Cambridge, where he led major capital projects and organisational change. He brings extensive experience in governance, strategic leadership and delivering inclusive, impactful outcomes.

Dawn Carman-Jone

Dawn has a strong commitment to improving outcomes for young people and holds a range of governance roles. She has extensive non-executive experience in education, including as a founding chair of trustees for a multi-academy trust, governance adviser, and independent reviewer. Dawn currently leads quality assurance for external governance reviews for the Confederation of School Trusts and has significant experience in chair mentoring, strategy development, HR and safeguarding investigations. She has been an active leader within the Scout Association for over 35 years.

Mark Bobby

Mark is a senior maritime professional with over 40 years' experience in the shipping and offshore sectors and is currently Fleet Manager at Gardline Limited. He has played a leading role in maritime training and education, serving as Chair of the Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB) since 2019. Mark is also a Director of the Safe Ship Training Group, a member of the UK Chamber of Shipping Supervisory Board, and Chairman of Winterton-on-Sea Parish Council.

Mark was awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service in recognition of his significant contribution to maritime training and education.

Michael Gray

Michael is Head of Skills at Suffolk County Council, leading skills and employment strategy and policy. With 18 years' public sector experience, he has worked across economic development, employment and skills, delivering partnerships and initiatives that improve opportunities for Suffolk residents. He has secured major investment for skills infrastructure and workforce development and helped shape skills strategies for significant projects including Freeport East and Sizewell C. Michael also serves as an Enterprise Adviser, supporting careers education for young people.

Michalel holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Local Government Management and a History degree

Meet the Governance Team

Katie Kerridge Katie is an English Lecturer and has just achieved Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status to be a fully qualified teacher and has a degree in Education Studies at UEA. Prior to her current role she was an English and Maths Coordinator. Katie has always been passionate about education and had a desire to work in this industry since a very young age and very much enjoys working with learners to help them make progress, both academically and personally.	Ana Dias Ana joined the College in 2006 as a Portuguese and ESOL tutor after completing degree and master's qualifications in Portuguese and English Language and Culture in Lisbon. Now Curriculum Leader for ESOL, they lead provision that helps learners develop the skills, confidence and opportunities needed to succeed. Passionate about education and community impact, they are committed to supporting learners to achieve their goals and progress into further study, employment and wider opportunities.	Andrew Dowsett - Associate Audit Committee Andrew is a Chartered Accountant in Ernst & Young's Banking and Capital Markets team and an Armed Forces veteran, he has over 10 years' experience in audit, assurance, internal controls, and financial reporting under IFRS and UK GAAP. He works with clients across Europe, North America and the Middle East. Andrew studied at King's College London, including a semester at the University of Toronto, and qualified as an ACA with EY and Mazars before joining Deloitte and later returning to EY in 2021. Outside work, he serves on the ICAEW Council and several charity boards, supporting education and community development. A keen cyclist, he has completed a number of long-distance rides and featured on the Global Cycling Network in 2022.
Wendy Stanger Director of Governance Wendy is a Chartered Governance Professional with extensive public sector and governance experience, including senior roles in local government, the NHS and HMRC. She has worked in governance since 2014 and was appointed a National Leader of Governance in 2023,. Wendy has received national recognition for her work, including Governance Professional of the Year (2019), Champion for Governance (2025) DMJ Top 100 Governance Trailblazer (2025) and Impact 100 Leadership & Mentorship Award (2026). Wendy has a BA (Hon) in Politics and Law, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management, is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, and a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute.		

Committee Objectives



Quality & Curriculum Committee

To lead for the Corporation on the character and nature of the education and training provided by the College.

To oversee quality assurance and improvement, student success, progression and wellbeing and the college's curriculum and its growth and development.

People Committee

To oversee the strategic aim of the People Strategy and to support the College to deliver its vision, with people as a strategic driver of our positive change.

Estates Committee

The Committee will provide strategic oversight, guidance, and assurance on the management, development, and sustainability of the College's physical estate, ensuring it supports the delivery of the College's mission, educational objectives, and long-term strategic and estates strategy.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Finance and General Purposes Committee has overall responsibility, on behalf of the Corporation, for the conduct of the College's financial affairs and for any other matters delegated by the Corporation.

The Committee's advice and decisions shall be directed to the protection and enhancement of the College's assets, the best use of its income to meet the objects of the College and to ensure the solvency of the College

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee assesses and provides the corporation with an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the corporation's assurance arrangements, framework of governance, risk management and control processes (including any subcontracting arrangements) for the effective and efficient use of resources, solvency, and the safeguarding of assets.

Governance Remuneration & Search Committee

To help ensure Good Governance

<https://www.eastcoast.ac.uk/corporation-governors/minutes/>

Quality & Curriculum	Finance & General Purposes	Audit	People	Governance Remuneration & Search
Rachel Kirk Robin Jackson Bill Farrow Kirk Lower Mark Buckton Vicki Paterson Paul Padda Michael Gray Ana Dias	David Blake Dawn Carmen-Jones Ian Lomax Paul Padda Peter Carr Peter Blackburn Mark Bobby	Giles Kerkham Teresa Sharman Mike Dowdall Andrew Dowsett (Associate)	Rachael Botley Vicki Paterson Ian Lomax Paul Padda Katie Kerridge	Kirk Lower Rachael Botley Ian Lomax Rachel Kirk David Blake Paul Padda
Estates	Subsidiary - ECETA	Governor Links	Governor Links	
Mike Dowdall David Blake Ian Lomax Peter Carr Robin Jackson Rachel Kirk Paul Padda	Peter Blackburn Richard Perkins Jennifer Cushion Karim Massaad Rachel Bunn Andrew Walmsley	Quality & Curriculum – Rachel Kirk Finance – David Blake People – Rachael Botley Apprenticeships – Robin Jackson AI & Cyber – Giles Kerkham	SEND & Inclusion – Vicki Paterson Safeguarding – Bill Farrow Careers & Skills - Kirk Lower Health & Safety – Ian Lomax Higher Education – Rachel Kirk	