

Hello Maryland Newsreaders,

I am **Stephanie Houghton**, one of three **Parent Governors** elected to Maryland's governing body, and I have been in post for just over a year. **Parent Governors** represent a parent's **unique** perspective and must have children currently attending the school. My two eldest children are in **Year 2 and Reception**, and my 2 year old will start Nursery next year, so I hope to support the school for a few years to come!

I have a Clinical Science background - my **MSc** is in **Medical Physics** and I manage a team within a Medical Physics facility. I am passionate about **raising the profile of STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths)** subjects in primary schools, and **encouraging more girls** and their parents to see the **value of STEM** as a **career**. I am one of the current Link Governors for **Maths**. I am also a member of the Personnel and Curriculum

subcommittees. Fulfilling these responsibilities involves critically assessing the school's performance by attending board meetings and forums, reading reports/ results data, and termly school visits. These **visits** are a **fantastic** opportunity to meet with **pupils** and **staff** and **examine pupils' work**. During visits I have **observed science** lessons, discussed **maths results** and **new innovations**, and attended a meeting with the **UCL STEM team**. I was also lucky enough to **speak** about the **life of Marie Curie** at an assembly!

All Governors share responsibility for **strategic decisions** involving the school, but are not involved in its day-to-day running. This is described as '**eyes on, hands off**'! Governors are also given **unique opportunities** to attend workshops and conferences on topical issues such as **Child Mental Health**, and **Online Safety**- this knowledge is crucial in helping us to **critically evaluate** the school's approach and responsibilities in these areas.

I volunteer to **give something back** to my **local community** and support Maryland school!

Kind regards,

Stephanie.