

# MEET THE ACADEMY COUNCIL

As a final edition for this school year we focus on an experienced and new Academy Council Members, and provide a spot light on Mrs Gibbard.

We will introduce Jo Lakin who has responsibility as a Community Academy Council Member for Wider Curriculum and Staff Wellbeing.

One of our new members Derek Hill, who joins as a Foundation Academy Council Member.



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I hadn't always planned on being a teacher, but once I did, I knew it was the only thing I ever wanted to do. I have been teaching now for 18 years. I began my career in a small Swindon school which quickly grew and changed dramatically over my years of teaching, into now one of the biggest primaries in the area. This school taught me so much and gave me a huge variety of experiences. When the position for the Head of School at Ridgeway was advertised, I knew this was the right time for a change and challenge, and Ridgeway in its early stages, as any new school would be, was certainly that! I feel so privileged to be part of the Ridgeway and Lydiard family. The children at both schools are so special and we really are blessed to be able to teach them and help nurture them to grow. This is the best part of my job, watching children learn and flourish throughout a unit of learning, across a year, in a Key Stage and ultimately their whole primary school experience. No day is every the same and I love that. The Academy Council support and challenge the schools to help us be the best that we can be, so that your children get the best that they deserve.

**LAURA  
GIBBARD**

Head of Schools



**JOANNE  
LAKIN**

Community Academy Council Member

My family and I have lived in Lydiard Millicent for 15 years. I am a mum of 2 daughters, one of whom still attends Lydiard Millicent Primary School.

I have been a member of the Academy Council as a Community Councillor for 5 years, and I am also Chair of the Staff, Performance and Leadership Committee. I have worked in Human Resources for over 20 years, and I use this experience to support the schools in ensuring we recruit, develop, and retain the best people to teach our children and enable them to grow. I think we are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated team of staff who all work very hard to provide the children with fantastic learning opportunities. I really enjoy my role as Councillor – it is varied, interesting and I am constantly learning! I would recommend it to anyone who may be interested in giving something back to the school and local community.

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I am a Director at Bible Society in Swindon, where I am responsible for Bible publishing in the UK and overseas. My wife Sharon and I have lived in West Swindon for thirty years and we live in Nine Elms. We have two grown up children and one about to go to university. I spend a good part of my spare time as an advanced motorcyclist, volunteering for Severn Freewheelers, a "blood-bike" charity supporting local hospitals and patients. I also enjoy Paragliding when I can. I attend All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent. I have a particular concern for the disadvantaged and vulnerable as well as recognising the lifelong impact of good teaching which is distinctively Christian and biblically rooted.

I am used to reporting to a Board and have extensive Director level experience, however, I am new to school governance and I am very much looking forward to learning about the schools, their staff and pupils and contributing in whatever way I can.

**LYDIARD MILLICENT  
CE PRIMARY**

**Ridgeway Farm  
CE Academy**



**DEREK  
HILL**  
Foundation Academy Council Member