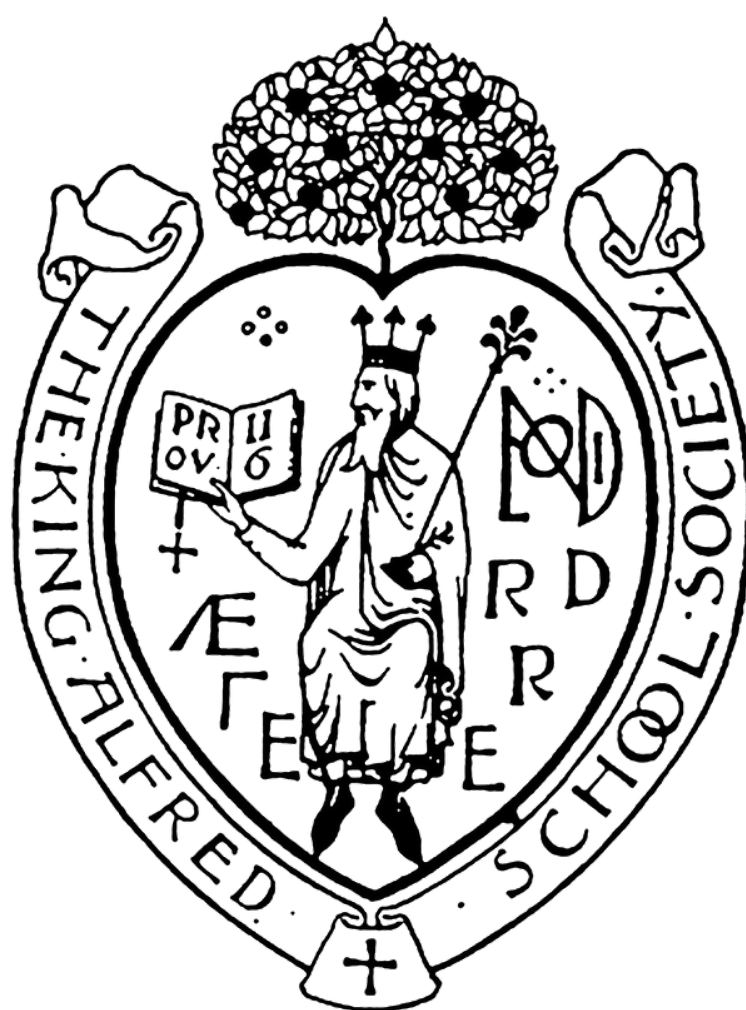


King Alfred School Society

Profile of Nominees 2024



EX CORDE VITA.

Kara Conti

NOMINATION FOR: President

PROPOSER: Emma Sevitt

SECONDER: Christine Prowse



PERSONAL STATEMENT

My daughter first attended KAS aged 11 in 1984 and I was almost immediately welcomed into parental involvement through KASparents. Very soon I was on the committee and spent some years as Chair of KASparents. I served on Council from 1986 and took over as Chair of Council in 1991 until 2000.

It has been an honour to serve as President of the Society since then and maintain my involvement with the School. The President serves on Council fully these days, whereas in the past the role was more of an ex-officio presence attending meetings by invitation only. I now chair the King Alfred School Society Committee which explores and funds educational research projects, organises the Society's conferences and TEDx events. More recently, we have been engaged in putting together a book on The Village Project with Stephen de Brett, who created the first village.

I am on hand to support the Chair and Head at any time and hope that my oversight and experience can be of use to them. I am still here after all these years because I remain excited about the education of our children - particularly in these changeable times where we are re-evaluating what works and re-thinking assessment in tandem with other like-minded educationalists. With our exciting 125th anniversary, I am deeply researching our founders and their principles and finding all kinds of interesting and inspiring details I can share.

My one grandson left the school in 2022, but my other grandson is currently in Year 8 - so the family connection is due to continue for some years.

Nick Friedlos



NOMINATION FOR: Treasurer

PROPOSER: Sam Jukes-Adams

SECONDER: Julia Cooper

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I have been a member of Council since 2016 and Treasurer since 2018. We have four children all of whom have been through KAS since Reception; our two eldest completed Sixth Form in 2020 and 2023, and we now have two in Years 10 and 12 respectively. KAS' approach is special in so many ways and is truly differentiated from what most other schools offer.

The independent sector faces a number of challenges over the next few years. We will need to navigate these in a way that preserves what is special about our school, takes account of the wellbeing of our staff and also the financial pressure of fees on our parent body. This will require choices to be made.

As Treasurer I hope I can contribute to helping make these choices in a way that maintains what is special about KAS and achieves the right balance between ensuring we have sound finances, can deliver the education we all want for our children and avoid becoming even more difficult to afford for our families.

Billie Bacall

NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: Alysa Selene

SECONDER: Smadar Yungrise



PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a longstanding parent and currently have a daughter in Year 10.

Having benefited from a progressive education, I was delighted to find King Alfred on my doorstep, at a time when I was desiring to find a learning environment for my children which would foster self-determination. In my opinion it is vital we educate our children to be free thinkers - creative in their approach to life and equipped with critical thinking skills - skills I believe KAS excels at cultivating.

As a graduate of The Slade School of Fine Art, I have spent my professional life creating and visualising. My greatest strength lies in the ability to project forward and envision - conceiving ideas and then communicating them - skills which can prove beneficial for the council. I also value working collectively towards common goals. On a personal note, when my husband unexpectedly died the school acted as a strong anchor for my children by giving time and space within a nurturing environment where they could truly be themselves.

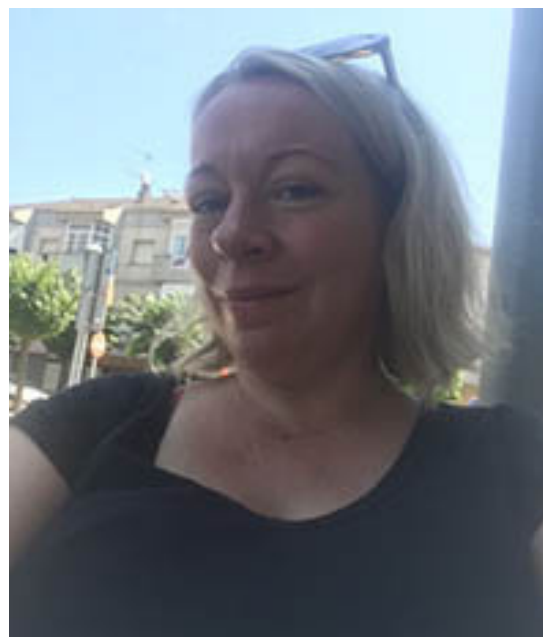
As a sole parent, I recognise the important role KAS has played in their lives enabling them to flourish both personally and academically, for which I am incredibly grateful. I strongly feel that now they are a little older, I am in a position to contribute back to the school by giving my time and energy as a Council Member.

Amy Chapman

NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: A. Strange De Gomez

SECONDER: Vitamaria Moltedo



PERSONAL STATEMENT

I have a son in Year 6 who has been at KAS since Reception. He loves his School and I do too, and I really want to continue to give something back to the School.

I became a member of Council in 2021 and sit on The Governance committee. I recently volunteered to be joint Early Years Foundation Stage rep. I don't want my time on Council to come to an end before I can get my teeth into this new role!

In my three years on Council, I have enjoyed learning about how KAS is governed and run. It has taken me this long (partly due to Covid lockdowns) to really get into the role of Council Member and get to know the other Members and understand all the acronyms and intricacies, so I do not want to stop now.

I love to learn and have already picked up so much new knowledge on safeguarding, finance, and the challenges faced by the education sector.

My long career as a legal and compliance director gives me the ability to add value to Council discussions on governance and the future of the school.

Rebekah Clark



NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: Sam Jukes-Adams

SECONDER: Tracy Preston

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a new parent to the KAS community, with a daughter who started Reception in September.

Professionally, I have worked in global social impact communications and marketing for over 20 years. Through my consultancy I support a range of public and private sector organisations to engage audiences on the things that matter to us all, from good health and wellbeing, to education, gender equality, social justice, poverty eradication, and opportunities for all. The UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a useful framework and north star. I am also the founder of a children's emotional wellbeing brand, Happy Marlo, which empowers 3-to 12-year-olds (and their grown-ups) through holistic content, experiences, and resources. Through my advocacy and thought leadership work with Happy Marlo, I am incredibly dismayed by the current state education system in the UK. It is no longer fit for purpose and is not only failing children, teachers, and wider society, but many aspects are immensely damaging.

When it came time to find a school for our daughter which aligned with our values and philosophy around what an education should look, feel like, and deliver, KAS was the only choice. After attending multiple open days at the school, speaking with Karen, meeting children from the Lower School, and importantly hearing positive reports from adults who had gone to KAS, we feel that this is the best environment for her to thrive, explore her talents and passions, and be encouraged to be herself.

But as my impact-driven career suggests, I am motivated by positive outcomes for more than just my own family and am excited by the role that KAS is playing in shaping and influencing better and more fulfilling education opportunities for children across the country.

As a global community we are in the midst of turbulent and uncertain times, and we recognise this on a micro level in our community here at KAS. Upcoming challenges are certain, but I am interested in how we can best collaborate, adapt, innovate, and create opportunities out of what can often feel like overwhelm and chaos.

I am looking forward to seeing how we can increase our positive impact at KAS, both in North London and much further afield. I'm also keen to contribute to the ongoing conversation and work around building upon the progressive and forward-thinking legacy of the school's founders.

Phoebe D'Arcy



NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: Ivana Zecevic

SECONDER: Lara McCann

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My professional background spans creative industries, from Theatre Design and Art Direction, to Fashion Styling, and more recently Garden and Planting design.

I have three children at King Alfred School, who are the third generation in my family to attend. My youngest is in Ivy Wood, one in Lower school, and one in Upper School.

Having attended KAS myself for 11 years, the School has completely shaped who I am, how I parent, and my view of the world. I feel lucky to have experienced an educational environment that not only prepared me for academic success, but also cultivated the qualities necessary for me to grow up compassionate, resilient, and a socially responsible human.

King Alfred School is a collaborative endeavour and was founded by parents. I believe its success is linked to the continued cooperation and accountability of us all, the parents, the staff, and the students. The world has never needed socially responsible and emotionally intelligent young people more.

I would like to join Council to play my part in shaping the School's future as it adapts to meet the changing needs of its students, society and crucially our planet, in line with the educational principles it was founded on.

With a long term vested interest in the School, and a desire to give back to somewhere that gave me so much, I feel I am well placed to help represent the current and future generations of KAS parents, to ensure our children glean the very best from this most unique and incredible School.

Muriel Hoffner



NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: Mharir Horton

SECONDER: Sam Jukes-Adams

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My professional background is in real estate, currently I work for myself managing a private residential investment company. Previously, I worked as a Real Estate Consultant at E&Y and then in Government Development Agencies in project management and master-planning roles. At the start of my working life, before training as a surveyor, I was part of the Development team at the Tate Gallery.

I have two children at KAS, one in Year 10 (Upper School) and the other in Year 5 (Lower School), both having started in Reception. I was first introduced to KAS at a fireworks night before I had children and had the overwhelming feeling that I wished I had been able to go to a school like this, so I am delighted that both my children are at KAS.

My husband is an Old Alfredian (OA) and I'm always impressed by how many parents are OA's. I am struck by the importance of preserving the intangible qualities, for want of a better word, 'KAS-ness', of the school alongside the necessary changes modern life demands.

Any changes to the KAS grounds will consider the balance between preserving the heritage and adapting for the future and I feel my professional background could support Council's Ground and Buildings Committee in this work, along with the anecdotal such as knowing how much happiness being able to climb a particular tree in Ivy Wood brought my daughter and many of her friends and, for sure, other countless other children.

I was the Chair of KASparents (previously Parent/Staff) in 2020 and 2021 when I reworked the group's structure and created new roles to encourage more parents involvement, along with connecting and talking with many parents and hearing their views as a part of the wider role. As Parent/Staff Chair, I attended Council meetings as a guest and learnt a lot about the workings of both KAS and Council.

I would like the chance to play a more active role in the School's current and future development and feel my professional experience in real estate in the private and public sector and with charities can support KAS in its next phase of development, adapting to our changing world.

Sam Jukes-Adams



NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: Nick Friedlos

SECONDER: Beth Griggs

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a current parent and have been a Council Member since 2017 and Chair of Council since June 2023. My two children are both KAS kids, one is now at Bristol University studying Social Policy and the other is in the final few years of KAS. I, too, was a lucky recipient of a progressive education at Bedales and know first hand what that educational experience can do for an individual's sense of self and membership of community, aside from the classical knowledge and skills a school provides. It's served me well in my first career in TV production and now as an Executive Coach.

Building on the founders principles of educating children in a different way and demonstrating the benefit of that wider than our school gates, Kas is leading and part of a growing consortium of schools enriching their curriculum to broaden and stretch the student educational experience. KAS now has a voice in parliament to bring this important consideration to those in national decision-making power and is committed to this and continues year on year to grow and improve its offer and amplifying its voice. Kas has also been focussed on its own culture and growing it in a way that reflects the wider community, city and world we live in, which simply enriches and benefits all, and the role and impact of DEI is vital.

We face interesting times, with elections across the globe, the impact of our UK one may be felt keenly by KAS parents and Council is working hard to navigate it with care and creative, strategic thought. It's a total privilege to be on Council and lead and support the strategic direction, financial and governance oversight of the school. Working with the School, its leadership, staff and students, is constantly educational and insightful. I've been a governor in the state sector as well as KAS and it's always been, and still proves to be, one of the most informative occupations I've ever had.

Galia Shilo Sum



NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: Kara Conti

SECONDER: Tracy Preston

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Hi, I am Galia, and my son is a Year 9 student at KAS. Over the past year I was involved with the KAS society, which was a great experience, in particular helping to organise King Alfred's TEDx event.

With a background as a journalist and senior editor for major business newspapers spanning over 15 years, I bring experience in media and communication. After moving to London, I have also worked for a charity focused on eradicating extreme poverty in developing countries where I led their grants program.

Today, I run a small content business that specialises in creative writing workshops and hosting TED style events. Leveraging my journalism skills, I also create educational content for social media, aimed at making news accessible and engaging for children, thus fostering their critical thinking and curiosity.

My passion for progressive education has increasingly become a focus in recent years. I have developed a curriculum incorporating some 'global best practices', and for almost two years, have been home schooling my younger son according to this approach.

I am enthusiastic about the possibility of contributing to the council and the school community. My experience and dedication to education, I believe, would be valuable assets to KAS.

Philip Whale



NOMINATION FOR: Council Member

PROPOSER: Amy Chapman

SECONDER: David Gossen

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I was first elected to Council in 2013. I am currently Chair of the Governance committee, which oversees the good governance of the school and the Society, and also sit on the Council's KASS committee.

During my time on Council I have:

- In the Governance committee
 - Drafted and co-ordinated the adoption of a modernised constitution for the Society in the form of the new Articles of Association
 - Worked with the committee to ensure that governance was in excellent shape for the successful school inspection and future inspections
 - Assisted in the development of a professional approach to governance in the light of the increasing burden of regulation on schools and the greater expectations imposed on the governing body
 - Recruited successfully to ensure skills on governance
- Been one of the Council members on the special committee supporting the School's Senior Leadership Team during the Covid pandemic.

My two children attended the school from reception through to 6th Form. I have a strong belief in the KAS ethos and philosophy of education, in particular the broad definition of what constitutes a successful and fulfilling educational experience and outcome for the pupils.

More than 25 years as a commercial lawyer and the professional and management skills I learnt in that role have enabled me to help Council deal with a range of practical and administrative issues.

It has been a very rewarding experience working on Council, and as a result becoming much more involved in school life. I would very much like to continue my work for the school, and to follow through on the many initiatives now in place to improve and develop our governance.



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