



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

Chair of Governors' Annual Report to Parents and Carers of students at Hampstead School: the 2024-25 academic year in review

Introduction

The purpose of this annual report is to:

- Enable governors to be more accountable to parents and staff by keeping them informed about our activities.
- Celebrate the successes and achievements of the school's activities.
- Support our practice in maintaining a strong focus on self-review and understanding the impact of our governance.

You can find out more about the governors from Hampstead School's website: [Hampstead School - Governors' Biographies](#).

Contact details:

The Head is Matthew Sadler, and the Chair of Governors is Jacob Sam.

The school's website is www.hampsteadschool.org.uk

The school's address is Westbere Road, London NW2 3RT.

The email contact for the school is enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk

The telephone contact for the school is 020 7794 8133.

Who we are and our main responsibilities:

The membership of the governing body can be found on the website. Our 4 core functions are:

1. Ensuring the school entity reinforces clarity vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation, and performance and well-being of its students, as well as performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and make certain its money is well spent.
4. Ensuring the voices of our stakeholders are heard.

Background to our report:

This last academic year had been a busy one, focusing on embedding the new committee and governing body structures introduced then. Maximising examination outcomes has been a key focus, and school leaders and governors have worked closely with Camden Learning to strengthen data tracking and targeted interventions for Year 11 and Year 13. Early analysis of 2025 results indicates that this collaborative work has had real impact: the school's 5+ English and Mathematics results were in the top 20% nationally for student progress, and there was a 40% increase in A*–B grades at A Level. During the year, one co-opted governor stepped down, and three new governors were appointed — including one elected by school staff. They joined the existing parent and co-opted governors.

The Governors' vision for the school.

The Governing Board recognises that Hampstead School is a creative and ambitious school with deep community roots and exciting global connections. Our shared vision is for the school to continue to serve the local community and to be the first choice for families in this area. To support this vision, the Board has developed its own strategic plan, first produced in September 2024 and RAG-rated (Red – yet to start, Amber – in progress, Green – completed) against key priorities. An updated version of the plan is now being developed for the coming year, building on the strong progress already made. Further, effective monitoring for educational activities and outcomes at the school. The chair of governors has been re-elected in September 2025 for a period of one year.

Holding leaders to account:

Named governors take on specific statutory responsibilities for the following areas, and report back to the governing

body each year: safeguarding, special educational needs and disability (SEND), careers guidance, pupil premium spending, health and safety, and data protection.

Governors continue to support the senior leadership team in embedding strong behaviour systems and best practice across all areas of school life. Visits and link work have provided valuable opportunities to observe provision directly, and governors have taken part in a range of school events both within and beyond the school site.

In the past year, governors have particularly enjoyed attending the school's International Arts Festival, the annual Remembrance Day events, and a range of celebrations showcasing students' achievements in sport and the arts. We are also looking forward to the forthcoming production of *Guys and Dolls* this December.

Training:

Governors attended training on various matters amongst other governor induction, equity, inclusion and diversity, and on effective recruitment, prevent, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) during the year. Individual governors have also attended training sessions, mostly through NSPCC learning, HM Government, The National Governors' Association and Camden Learning. Camden Learning is a school supported structure to enhance education in Camden schools.

Finances:

Governors continue to work closely with senior leaders and Camden Local Authority to take a proactive and strategic approach to the school's long-term sustainability and development. Following a small in-year deficit in 2024–25, which was covered from healthy reserves, the 2025–26 budget has been approved with a clear plan to reduce the projected deficit through careful monitoring and mid-year review.

Staffing levels remain strong, and the leadership team is well placed to maintain high-quality provision across the curriculum. While the smaller Year 7 intake reflects borough-wide demographic trends, governors and leaders are collaborating with Camden to explore strategies for sustaining healthy enrolment and further strengthening the school's profile. Encouragingly, sixth form enrolment this year exceeded predictions, reflecting growing confidence in the school's offer.

In addition, governors and senior leaders are developing a more strategic approach to income generation—building on the success of the school's lettings, particularly the sports facilities and swimming pool—and pursuing new partnerships and funding opportunities to enhance provision.

Stakeholders:

Governors are at an early stage of involving key stakeholders in the life of the school- for example encouraging the success of our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and student involvement in governor meetings.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all members of our community who help in making Hampstead School a place of belonging, where our students can thrive.

Let us know how we are doing.

Governors are keen to know what parents think of the school, and how you think the governors are doing. We welcome any suggestions.

Please send any comments to Vanessa Long, Office Manager and Head's PA on v.long@hampsteadschool.org.uk.



Jacob Leonard Sam
Chair of Governors 2025-26.

Hunter Danskin and Paul Stratton
Vice Chairs of Governors 2025-26.