Carisbrooke College

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Headteacher - Ms N Sheppard

9 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you on 10 September to invite nominations for a parent governor. I am delighted to say that there has been a good response and there are two candidates for the one vacancy. This means we must now hold a ballot.

Our preference is for parents to vote via this online form: (*link emailed to parents)
You may vote for **one** of the candidates. Each parent can submit **one** vote.

For any parents who are unable to access the online form, attached to this letter is:

- A ballot paper with the names of the candidates (in alphabetical order)
- A copy of the personal statements from the candidates

As indicated on the ballot paper, you should vote by marking a single 'X' alongside the candidate you support. Please return the paper to the voting box located in our school Reception area.

Please only vote once - by online form (our preference) or paper ballot, not both.

The election will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, lots will be drawn.

Please ensure you vote by midday on **Monday 23 November 2026.**

When the election has been completed, I will let you know the outcome. If you have any queries in the meantime, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Sara Higgs
Chair of the Academy Committee

Carisbrooke College Parent Governor Ballot

November 2026

CANDIDATE PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Name of Candidate	Personal Statement
April Jeffers	My current job role is Family Liaison Officer and Safeguarding Lead at Queensgate Foundation Primary School. I am a member of the Senior Leadership Team, giving me valuable insight into school priorities, inclusion, safeguarding and the challenges that schools face. Additionally, I have over 15 years experience working with vulnerable children and families. Including working for IOW Children's Services, and as an Intensive Family Support Worker for Barnados. I also work closely with the charity Children Heard and Seen, who support children impacted by parental imprisonment. Through this work, I have had opportunities to contribute to radio interviews and visits to Parliament, helping to raise awareness and advocate for change. In 2021 I gained a BA (Hons) in Education and have recently attended Level 4 Safeguarding training. My current and previous roles have involved working closely with staff, families and external agencies. They require a high level of safeguarding knowledge, good communication, organisation and the ability to work collaboratively with a wide range of people. I would bring a strong combination of professional knowledge, strategic experience and parent's perspective to the governing body and would be committed to contributing positively.
Natalie Thomas	As a parent of a child who has recently started Year 7, I am keen to become a Parent Governor and contribute to the continued success of the school. I understand the importance of ensuring that children receive the best possible education in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. From 2021 to 2025, I served as a Parish Councillor for Freshwater, where I championed the needs of children, young people and families within the local community. This role strengthened my leadership, communication and governance skills, whilst giving me experience of strategic decision-making,

	reviewing policies, managing competing priorities and working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders. It also reinforced the importance of accountability, transparency and acting in the best interests of the community. I am an active member of my local church in Freshwater and value the importance of community service, inclusion and supporting others. Alongside this, my professional career within the NHS has given me experience in public health, administration, service improvement and stakeholder engagement. These roles have enabled me to develop strong organisational skills, attention to detail, problem-solving abilities and confidence in analysing information to support informed Decision-making. I believe I would bring a balanced combination of professional experience, governance knowledge, community involvement and, most importantly, the perspective of a parent. I am a good listener, an effective communicator and someone who is not afraid to ask constructive questions while working positively as part of a team. I am committed to helping children and young people achieve their potential and would welcome the opportunity to support the school as a Parent Governor. Thank you for considering my application.

Carisbrooke College Parent Governor Ballot
November 2026

VOTING FORM

Name of Candidate	**Mark chosen candidate (maximum of one mark) with an X below**
April Jeffers	
Natalie Thomas	

Please return this form to the voting box at Carisbrooke College, Reception area by **midday on Monday 23 November 2026.**