



St Albans High School  
for Girls



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HELPING SCHOOLS THRIVE



# ST ALBANS HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS CHAIR OF COUNCIL

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION



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### **St Albans High School for Girls (STAHS) seeks a new Chair of Council**

*"A STAHS education should prepare pupils to lead lives of consequence, to be community-minded, to be adventurous and resilient and never to settle for 'good enough' for themselves or others."*

Amber Waite, Head of STAHS

St Albans High School for Girls is one of the leading day schools in the country. Educating over 1000 pupils from 4 to 18, in and around the historic city of St Albans, it combines the community spirit of a local school with the ambition and energy of a school recognised on the national stage. It is no surprise that it has won the prestigious accolade of The Sunday Times Independent Secondary School of the year and is consistently ranked among the top 30 schools in the UK. Based across two sites, pupils progress from the idyllic and rural setting of the Prep School to the city buzz of the High School. STAHS is an intellectually exciting place where scholarship and creativity abound and combine with excellent pastoral care to ensure the atmosphere is unstuffy, grounded and great fun. STAHS provides all its pupils with inspiration, opportunity and adventure.

Amber Waite, the new Head, is a vibrant scientist who knows no bounds in terms of what she wants for her pupils. Her recent interview for the Old Girls' magazine, The Luminary, can be found at this [link](#) to give you a sense of who she is and how interesting it would be to work with her and with her governors, staff and pupils. In Amber's words, 'I love working with so many bright, inquisitive young woman at STAHS ... the atmosphere is alive with possibility.'

The link to the School's website is here: <https://www.stahs.org.uk>





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STAHS is governed by a Council with 16 members from a wide variety of backgrounds. They meet together four times a year, chaired by the Chair of Council who also currently chairs the Remuneration Committee which meets twice a year and attends the Finance, Governance and Strategy Committees. Blue sky thinking comes in the form of an annual Strategy Day where the sky is the limit in terms of vision and ambition.

The Chair's role is a rewarding and interesting one, impacting on the lives and opportunities of the many young people who are pupils at the School, as well as those at partner schools.

The Chair is responsible for the proper and effective functioning of Council and, with Council, for holding the Executive Team to account, challenging them and supporting them. The Chair meets regularly with the Head and provides the much-needed role of critical friend. As Chair of Trustees, the Chair shares responsibility with the other trustees for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for ensuring that it fulfils its charitable purpose. The Chair's role is best described as 'eyes on and hands off': the role is active and engaged, while remaining explicitly non-executive. The Chair is supported by a professional Clerk to the GB who provides advice on all matters relating to governance and compliance as well as administrative support. Meetings are held at the School and generally start at 6pm to allow those who are working to attend.

The current Chair, Heather Greatrex, is flexible in terms of a handover date but would prefer to have a new Chair in place by September 2021.

The role cannot be undertaken by a current parent or grandparent of a child in the School as that is seen as a potential conflict of interest.

This is a pro bono role.





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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will have:

- a deep interest in education and, most especially, outstanding education for girls
- vision and ambition for the School and its pupils
- a commitment to broadening access through bursaries (in the year 2019/2020 the total annual bursary awards amounted to 7.4% of fee income resulting in approx. 10% of pupils being in receipt of full or partial bursary assistance) and partnerships.
- an understanding of, or a readiness to learn about, school governance and compliance
- the ability to understand the business and financial side of the School
- the skills to be a strategic thinker who is strong, open-minded, consultative and able to make decisions
- the ability to synthesise disparate viewpoints and develop an agreed direction
- experience and skill in chairing meetings
- the ability to challenge and support the SLT
- the confidence to challenge existing practices constructively
- integrity and discretion
- the ability to manage conflict sensitively





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**Interested candidates** are invited to contact RSAcademics, by email or telephone, to arrange a confidential discussion with Louisa Barham who is leading the search:

**07770 928537** or [LouisaBarham@RSAcademics.com](mailto:LouisaBarham@RSAcademics.com)

A job outline is available from Louisa Barham.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be asked to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for an Enhanced Disclosure.



*Founded in 2002 by Russell Speirs, RSAcademics specialises in schools, in the UK and internationally. The company advises on business strategy and strategic marketing, development and fundraising, leadership consultancy and the search and selection of Heads, Chairs of Boards, Bursars and other senior staff. Comprising a team of exceptional talent and experience, RSAcademics provides a high quality service to schools with rigour, expertise and warmth. Please visit [www.rsacademics.com](http://www.rsacademics.com) for more information.*