

## WHY BE A STUDENT GOVERNOR?

The role of the Student Governor is both interesting and varied – as with most things in life, the more time and dedication given to the role, the richer the rewards.

### What is a Governor?

- A Governor is a volunteer who has chosen to use their experience and expertise to help set the strategic development of the College, and ensure that all of its activities are conducted to the highest possible standard.
- Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds in education, finance and business. There are twelve Independent (external) Governors on the Governing Body along with two Student Governors, two Staff Governors and the Principal.
- Student Governors are important because they ensure that the Learner Voice is at the heart of Governing Body discussions.

### What is the time commitment of being a Student Governor?

- Student Governors are encouraged to be full and active members of the Governing Body and are therefore expected to attend the following two hour meetings - usually Thursdays from 4-6pm:
  - 3 Governing Body Meetings (December, March, July)
  - 3 Committee meetings (one each term)
- It is worth setting aside a couple of hours before each meeting to read through the papers and identify any questions or comments that you might wish to make. The Chair will often invite comments specifically from Student Governors.
- Student Governors are also actively encouraged to attend 2 Strategy Days (October and May.) These are 4 hours each but do not require any preparation. They provide an excellent insight into government policy and the future direction of the College.

### What support will I receive?

- You will receive a full induction to the role from the Clerk to the Governing Body. The Clerk will also be available for support throughout your 1 year term of office.
- You will receive a formal handover from your predecessor – in particular, they will bring you to the summer term Governing Body meeting and introduce you to members of the Governing Body.
- You can request a mentor to support you in meetings (usually a Staff Governor).
- You will receive support from members of staff to prepare written reports for the Governing Body (bullet points and a maximum one side of A4 – a standard template is provided for this).

### What skills will I acquire?

The skills that Student Governors are likely to develop from taking on this role are:

- Increased confidence
- Listening skills
- Verbal presentation skills
- Working as a team towards a common end
- Organisational skills: juggling competing diary commitments

### What knowledge will I acquire?

Student Governors will also acquire knowledge and understanding of the following:

- How educational organisations are governed. In particular, how **decisions** are made about budgets, resources, curriculum and the College's future direction.
- How the workload of the Governing Body is achieved. In particular, through Committee meetings, Lead Governors, Working Groups, Governor Visits/Learning Walks, etc.

**If you have any further questions about this role please feel free to email Lisa Keay, the Clerk to the Governing Body: [lisa.keay@southdevon.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.keay@southdevon.ac.uk)**

**Further information about the Governing Body, including its members, can be found on the College website at: <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/about-us/governance/meet-the-governors>**