

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER STATEMENTS

'I would like to take part in the school's Advisory Council as I believe I will be able to contribute with ideas and experience that I have gathered over the years, through my professional career in the non-academic world. KHS is a very young school with a very 21st century ethos willing to make a difference. With this in mind, I would like to take the opportunity to look for continuous improvements and enhancements to help our children develop to readily face the challenging competitive world once they leave the school. Many thanks!'

Laura Brennan, Parent of Meritxell Brennan in 7H

I have two children Margaux 11 and Cameron aged 14. I own run an investment management firm www.sturgeonventures.com and the breadwinner so know all about multi-tasking all my team are working mothers except one, and keen to develop entrepreneurial spirit in children across all ages. I am passionate about giving back and social communities, and that children grow up with self-esteem, as an all-round person. I am creative in mind and being, and encourage that in children. I am happy to be used in the 6th form for talks on financial services, and maybe encourage the Young Enterprise Scheme at that level into the school. I believe in children learning about saving/investing/giving, so that later in life they are better equipped.

Seonaid Mackenzie-Murray, Parent of Margaux Murray in 7H

'I would like to volunteer to be a Y7 rep for the School Council. I have two children already at secondary school and I am aware of how much harder it is to feel part of the school community when you are more removed from the school process as your children gain independence. I would be very happy to contribute to the development of school policies and help enhance communication links between the school and the parent community. I run the Boat Club Supporters association at my other children's school and in Alfie's prep I ran Gardening Club. Both of these activities have been both very pleasurable and invaluable in feeling part of the school.'

Sandra Page, Parent of Alfie Rogers in 7L

'Like all parents, I care passionately about the education my son receives. I care that he has the advantage of brilliant teaching, facilities, access and experience. I care that he is looked after, known, understood and valued; his weaknesses supported and passions fuelled. I want him to be pushed hard, but not too hard, to succeed and to fail. To feel reward but to know the cost of lack of care on his part. These are the hallmarks of a great school.

Kew House has all the hallmarks of a great school. The backing and experience of the consortium, the investment in its Head, the funds to attract talent and the ethos to sustain a strong course.

I have seen myself what happens when parents feel cut off from schools and would do my best to minimise this by communicating to Year 7 parents the discussion and outcome of each meeting. Finally, I want to share my hopes for Kew House which are that in a few short years it becomes one of the most consistently admired schools in London. I'm keen to do my part to achieve that.'

Ali Gee, Parent of James Gee in 7L

'There's a wonderful sense of community and openness at KHS with everyone clearly working together to create a learning environment which delivers the best possible outcomes for each pupil. I am currently Vice Chair at Strand Infant School (a post which I am relinquishing at the end of the year); I'm a team player, and as an experienced journalist, I'm not afraid to ask questions and to offer new creative solutions when required. KHS is truly worth nurturing, both for the immediate and wider community; that's why I'd like to offer my time and skills to the Advisory Council.'

Juliet Morris, Parent of Evie Rogers in 7S

'I currently have 2 sons at Kew House School (Nico, Year 7 and Marco, Year 8) I am from the US originally, but our family has lived in Chiswick for the past 11 years. Marco and Nico started their schooling at the Instituto Espanol, Canada Blanch in Notting Hill (a Spanish state school established by the Spanish government) and then moved on to Kew Green Prep. My experience with different school systems (US, Spanish and UK, both state and private) will lend to a balanced perspective to the KHS Council. I believe in empowering the teachers and administration to do their job well. Parental support is key but so is communicating to staff that we, as parents, are confident in their ethos and practice so they are efficient, effective and happy in their work with our children.'

Maria Lettini, Parent of Marco and Nico Landazabal in 8H and 7H

'As a new parent at KHS I would welcome the opportunity to become involved in the Advisory Council and work towards developing strong ties between the parents, with the school and the local community. As parents we are decision and policymakers in our own homes dealing with issues ranging from access to X box 18 + content through to deciding whether a 16 year old should be allowed to attend parties with alcohol? Too much control won't be adhered to and too little can be harmful. There are no "right" answers to these questions, but I am strongly of the view that open discussion and education is key to providing our children with the opportunity to navigate their teenage years confidently.'

Gabrielle Voumard, Parent of Angus Power in 8K

'I believe in the ethos of the school and am excited for all stakeholders to be part of this new and vibrant community at Kew House. That's why I am a trustee of a children's charity – Chickenshed (www.chickenshed.org.uk), whose philosophy is that 'everyone has something to offer, no matter what their ability'. My personal hope of being part of the Social Committee and the Advisory Council is to ensure that the parent's views can be communicated as effectively and productively as possible, but always with the children's welfare and wellbeing as the focus.'

Christine Mason, Parent of Jake Berger in 8K

'I am passionate about education and about the standard and kind of education that our children receive. I firmly believe that our children need an education that not only helps them fulfil their academic potential but will equip them with life skills so that they enter the adult world with confidence, self-belief, emotional intelligence and tolerance and be able to think creatively. Through my two year tenure as Parent Governor at RPPS I have built a good working relationship with Mr Husdon and also learnt a huge amount. It would be a privilege to be a member of the Advisory Council and to represent the parent body, which I would do so in an honest, discreet and diplomatic way.'

Suzanne Cagnoli, Parent of Bella Cagnoli in 8H

'I have a son in Year 8, the youngest of four, with the eldest about to start university in the US. I believe this gives me a good current perspective of Secondary School dynamics. I am an active member of the Social Committee and played a leading role in the organization of the inaugural May Gala Dinner. I believe there is, now, a wonderful opportunity to build on events like this to develop longer-term relationships with selected charities that allows the children beneficial involvement. With a strong business background I would be delighted to channel my energy and experience into our Advisory Council'

Helen Kelly, Parent of Christopher Kelly in 8S

'I would like to support the work of the staff and management to build the school's offerings to its students. I bring in external experience and contacts in leadership and entrepreneurship from a Higher Education and corporate perspective. Having experienced year 7 as a parent, I feel I can bring in a perspective that will help in terms of communication and the parental experience. I have been a class rep at RPPS for a total of 5 years and understand the value of these groups for the school whilst also recognising the experience of judgement of the staff and management team.

Shaheena Jivraj, Parent of Iliyan Jivraj in 8H

'Having looked after the two Annual Quiz Nights, I would like to do more to help the school succeed. I have been fortunate to have had multiple careers in different countries: managing large factories, pioneering healthcare services, consulting on blockbuster movies, directing large property developments and being a state school Governor. Hopefully this breadth gives me a helpful perspective on what our kids' education needs to deliver. Mostly though, I am a hands-on parent who cares a lot about the place that does so much to form our kids' attitudes to others, expectations of themselves and their hunger for life.'

Andrew Hall, Parent of Felix Hall in 9S

'I am very supportive of a structure, which aims at bringing together different voices, experiences and members of the wider community to contribute in the implementation of projects and policies within the educational arena. It is widely agreed that the school plays a vital role in shaping our children's future as today's youngsters will be tomorrow's leaders and a "bottom up" approach is by far the most inclusive way to achieve a fairer society. For this reason I will be honoured to take part and commit to bring the best of my abilities to the Council.'

Paola Ferretti-Johnson, Parent of Giorgia and Alessia Ferretti-Johnson in 11K and 8L

'I am interested in joining the Parents Advisory Council because I have 2 children at Kew House School in years 7 and 9, and I would like to provide both support and feedback to the school based on their experiences. In addition, I have a background in Education, having previously worked as a primary school teacher for 8 years, before moving into a career in Technology. As a family, we are very excited about the school, but we appreciate that continuous improvement is only possible when constructive feedback is received from all involved – children, teachers and parents. As a year 7 representative, where appropriate, I would seek additional feedback from other year 7 parents to share with the PAC.'

Suzy Bean, Parent of Hannah and Max Choudhury in 7H and 9K

'I would like to apply for membership of the Parents Advisory Council. As a year 7 parent, I am keen to be closely involved in the life and community of Kew House School. I am particularly interested in both the educative and holistic issues that the role covers, and helping to facilitate effective communication and liaison between the school and parents. Logistically and professionally I am well placed. I live just a few minutes' walk from school. I have recently completed my training as a Psychotherapeutic Counsellor, with a professional interest in family oriented work.'

Alegra Druce, Parent of Matthew Druce in 7H

'As a parent of the very first intake to Kew House School back in 2013, I have seen the school's innovative ideas come to fruition and the school go from strength to strength. I believe passionately in education and in helping to create an environment where our children are nurtured and able to fulfil their potential while protecting their mental health at a time when pressures on our children are higher than ever. A neuroscientist by training, I work in a voluntary capacity for an NHS body overseeing clinical research in children in the UK, representing the views and opinions of parents and children. I have also had the opportunity to work with several charities helping to support parents. I would love the opportunity to work with the advisory council to represent parental views and to further develop the close working relationships between parents and teachers.'

Jackie Childs, Parent of Evelyn Childs 7K and Sam Childs 11H

'I was really heartened when Kew House opened. I felt particularly encouraged that the school looked beyond simple academic results when recruiting, instead looking at the whole child and deliberately setting out to find that spark in every child that makes him or her unique and interesting. That excites me. I feel passionately that some of the most interesting minds and inspirational people in this world don't necessarily conform to the narrow version of intelligence that the eleven plus tests for. I think Kew House is unique in this area for taking a different stance on that front and in other areas of education too. I would love to be part of a parent team that helps to shape the future of this new and innovative school. I have twins in Year 7 and a third at Kew Green Prep School. I have always enjoyed playing an active part in school life and have a genuine interest in education. I hold a particular interest in special educational needs and unlocking the potential of brains that learn differently. My employment background is in advertising, where I managed large teams filled with differing voices and differing views – I learnt that you had to listen to find solutions and ideas that satisfied all. So, in short, I am a good listener, interested in the subject, and I am full of ideas and enthusiasm for the task in hand.'

Phoebe Bryans, Parent of Kip and Effie Bryans 7S and 7K