

CIRENCESTER COLLEGE CORPORATION GOVERNOR TO JOIN THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (VACANCY)

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking to appoint a new governor to our Audit committee who has board-level or senior management experience in organisations with strong governance structures. The ideal candidate will have experience in public sector, charity, education or regulated environments and a background in audit, finance, law, governance or risk management.

We are looking for someone with:

- Strong knowledge of audit practices (internal and external auditing, risk-based auditing)
- Familiarity with public sector/ charity accounting rules
- A solid grasp of risk assessment and management frameworks
- Proven ability to maintain independence of thought and critical challenge
- The confidence to ask difficult questions and to probe management responses constructively
- Integrity, discretion and a commitment to public service values

(Desirable but beneficial):

- An understanding of the FE sector's operating environment
- Awareness of emerging risks and trends (e.g. cybersecurity, safeguarding, sector funding)
- The potential to take on the Chair of the Audit committee role, either immediately or within our succession plans

ABOUT THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee plays a vital role in scrutinising the risks the college is exposed to, and the control measures it has in place to mitigate these risks. The committee ensures that the college has effective systems of internal control, governance and risk management and advises the Corporation on all internal and external audit matters.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Cirencester College is a specialist sixth-form college in a rural setting on the outskirts of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and serves much of Gloucestershire, North Wiltshire, Swindon and West Oxfordshire. There are over 3000 students, along with apprentices and adult learners, supported by more than 300 staff.

The college provides a bridge between school and university, apprenticeships or employment. Students experience the academic challenge, pastoral support and enrichment expected at the best sixth form but with a more adult ethos, based on mutual respect, in order to prepare successful, independent people.

The College offers an unrivalled choice of subjects – from a great choice of A-levels, a growing number of T Levels, other vocational courses and professional apprenticeships – and this is a major reason why so many students make Cirencester College their first choice. The College also offers a small number of courses aimed at adults.

ABOUT THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

Governors play a crucial strategic role in the success of the college. Working collectively as a board, governors ensure that the college meets its statutory responsibilities, maintains high standards of education, and delivers value for public money.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Strategic Leadership:** Setting the college's vision, ethos, and strategic priorities.
- **Accountability:** Monitoring and challenging the college's performance, including student outcomes, safeguarding, equality and diversity, and financial health.
- **Support and Oversight:** Providing constructive challenge to the Principal and leadership team alongside informed support.
- **Compliance and Assurance:** Ensuring the college complies with legal and regulatory requirements (e.g. Ofsted, DfE, Charity Commission).
- **Financial Stewardship:** Overseeing budgets and ensuring effective use of resources and public funds.

Governors attend meetings of the full Governing Body (typically twice per term) and contribute to one or more committees aligned with their expertise (e.g. Audit, Remuneration, Search and Governance).

Individual governors also serve as "Focus Governor" where they can most directly contribute their professional expertise in support of the senior leadership team.

BENEFITS OF SERVING AS A GOVERNOR

Becoming a governor provides a unique opportunity to make a real difference in young people's lives and contribute to your local community whilst also enhancing your own professional and personal development.

Benefits include:

- **Personal Fulfilment:** Contribute to the success and wellbeing of young people at a crucial stage in their lives.
- **Professional Development:** Gain insight into the governance and strategic leadership of a large, complex organisation – valuable in any career.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Collaborate with professionals from diverse backgrounds in a collegiate and respectful environment.
- **Training and Support:** Access to high-quality training and induction programmes to help you succeed in the role.
- **Community Engagement:** Play a part in shaping the future of education in your area.

This is a voluntary role. Out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

REQUIREMENTS OF BEING A GOVERNOR

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences. You do not necessarily need to be an expert in education, but you should bring curiosity, commitment, and integrity to the role. No previous governance experience is required—just a willingness to learn, contribute, and work as part of a team.

We are looking for individuals who:

- Are committed to improving educational outcomes for all students.
- Can think strategically and analytically, using data to inform decisions.
- Are willing to question, challenge, and support senior leaders effectively.
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Can commit time to attend meetings, read papers, and undertake training.
- Demonstrate values aligned with inclusivity, diversity, and public service.

Time commitment: Approximately 6–10 2-hour meetings per academic year, with additional preparation time. Most meetings take place in college on Monday evenings from 5-7pm. Meeting dates are agreed ahead of each academic year to support diary planning.

Focus Governors should also aim to come into college at least twice per term. Governors are also asked to attend three college events per year.

Eligibility: All governors must be over 18 and not disqualified from serving as a governor or charity trustee under current legislation.

Appointment process: Suitable candidates will be invited to attend an interview with a panel of governors. A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and satisfactory references will be required for successful candidates.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

If you're interested in applying or finding out more, please contact Suzanna Miles at suzanna.miles@cirencester.ac.uk

Or visit <https://www.cirencester.ac.uk/about-the-college/corporation/become-a-governor/>

Cirencester College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Cirencester College welcomes applications from all sectors of the community and is an equal opportunities employer.

Join us in shaping the future of Cirencester College and the lives of the young people we serve.