



Coleg y
Cymoedd

Become a Governor





Introduction from the Chair



Thank you for expressing an interest in joining Coleg y Cymoedd Corporation as a Member/Governor¹.

As a College Governor your insight, experience and ideas can widen the perspective of our meetings. We are keen to involve people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. With a strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, we wish to encourage applications from under-represented groups namely women, LGBT+ and ethnic minorities.

You may have experience of business, community or social work with charities, financial or legal practice, or even be an entrepreneur. The broader your vocational field and cultural experience the better.

The role is a voluntary one without payment although members may claim expenses for travelling and subsistence associated with attending meetings, development events and conferences.

The Board has a membership of 20, and includes 2 staff members, 2 student members and 2 persons drawn from the two local authorities in which the College sits. The College Principal is also a Governor. There are currently vacancies for full governors and for co-opted Committee members.

Meetings take place four times per academic year, normally on a Monday evening, and circulate around the College's four campuses. A number of committees also exist to support the work of the Corporation Board, each meeting three times a year.

If you are successful in your application, you will enjoy being part of a team that supports the College whilst at the same time scrutinises and challenges key strategic decisions.

Good luck!

Paul Smart

¹ The terms member and governor are used interchangeably.



About Coleg y Cymoedd

Coleg y Cymoedd (meaning college of the valleys) was formed in 2013, following the merger of The College Ystrad Mynach and Coleg Morgannwg. Over 10,000 learners study at Coleg y Cymoedd each year with sites in Aberdare, Nantgarw, Rhondda (Llwynypia) and Ystrad Mynach. The College offers a wide range of full and part-time courses from Entry to Degree Level in over 15 curriculum areas. Working in partnership with more than 800 employers, the College's Business Services team also offers a wide range of Apprenticeship and Bespoke Commercial Training packages.

The College has invested significantly in its facilities in recent years, with standout projects including the Nantgarw Campus building (a £40 million award winning campus), Aberdare Campus (a £22 million campus opened 2017), state of the art Railway Training and Motor Vehicle Facilities.

In November 2017, the College was subject to an inspection by Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, and was judged adequate in terms of current performance with prospects for improvement good.

Mission: *Together we create your future success*

Vision: *Our vision is to be recognised as an exceptional college*

Values: The college community act in line with the college's values. The college values are at the heart of everything we do, and they shape the way we operate at every level. People make decisions based on values.

Our college community is:

Authentic

Supportive

People centred

Inclusive

Responsible

Empowered



Responsibilities of the Corporation Board

As members of the Corporation Board, Governors are responsible for

- determining the educational character and mission of the College and oversee its activities;
- ensuring the solvency of the College and safeguarding its assets;
- approving annual estimates of income and expenditure;
- overseeing the appointment, grading, appraisal, suspension, dismissal and determination of the pay and conditions of service of the holders of senior posts and the Governance Officer²;
- setting a framework for the pay and conditions of all other staff;
- ensuring that arrangements are in place for the oversight of the academic work of the College.



To fulfil their role effectively, governors are expected to

- attend meetings of the Corporation Board and serve on at least one Committee of the Corporation;
- be available for additional meetings such as Away Days, appeals, Principal's workshops;
- attend College events such as award ceremonies;
- act as an ambassador for the College within the local, regional and, on occasion, national settings if required;
- attend relevant training and development programmes for Governors.

² The Governance Officer is independent of the management of the College and provides advice, guidance and support to the Corporation Board.

Governors are also required to

- comply with the Corporation's Codes of Conduct and Ethics, complete the annual Register of Interests and meet any statutory requirements placed on Corporation members;
- declare they are eligible to be a Governor;
- complete a DBS check.

Personal Qualities required

- a strong interest in further education and training and a determination to improve student success;
- a knowledge of the College's community and its economic, social and political character;
- an ability to understand complex matters relating to public education and training policy, College planning, and College performance;
- an ambition for Coleg y Cymoedd;
- an ability to form effective working relationships with fellow Governors and with College students, staff and stakeholders;
- an ability to scrutinise, challenge and actively support the work of the senior staff of the College;
- an ability to contribute to a learning Corporation Board through example;
- a desire to work hard as a volunteer Governor for the benefit of Coleg y Cymoedd;
- a willingness to act honestly, openly and with integrity.



Persons ineligible to be Members

All interested candidates are required to confirm their eligibility for membership as certain persons are ineligible from becoming members of the Corporation. The Corporation Board may also decline to appoint any person if it is satisfied that the person, in addition to the criteria specified in the Instrument and Articles of Government, is not eligible to become a governor if they:

- are unfit or unable to discharge the functions of a members;
- have been disqualified from acting as a charity trustee in accordance with the Charities Act 2011;
- present a significant risk to the health, safety or welfare of children or vulnerable adults;
- have engaged in activity that is prejudicial to the reputation and integrity of the College;
- in the case of a person to be appointed as a business, local authority, community or co-opted member, the Search Committee has advised that the person should not be appointed.





Application Process

All interested candidates are required to submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV) along with an application form detailing their ability to meet the Corporation's requirements. Completed eligibility for membership and equal opportunities monitoring forms are also required, along with a skills questionnaire, code of conduct, code of ethics and declaration of any potential conflicts of interest.

The Search Committee will review applications received against the above personal specification and the audit of members' relevant skills and experience and prepare a shortlist.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to attend an informal interview with the Search Committee. The interview is a two-way process for both sides to get to know one another and determine whether they can work in partnership in discharging the responsibilities of the Corporation, and to ensure the necessary time commitments can be realised.

The Search Committee will then agree and present its recommendations to the Corporation Board. It may be that some applicants will be recommended for co-opted Committee membership only, rather than as full members, due to the number of vacancies and/or skills, experience and knowledge of applicants.

The length of appointment will be at the discretion of the Corporation Board but the normal term of office for members is 4 years. Co-opted members may be appointed for a shorter period of time, depending on the skill/experience requirement of the relevant Committee.

All applicants will be contacted by the Governance Officer once a decision has been made.

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