

## Deptford Green Parent Governor Election 2025

### Tafsa Thomas

With over 20 years of experience working across educational settings and supported accommodation, I bring a broad understanding of how to support children and young people of all ages and backgrounds. My past experience as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has strengthened my ability to identify and respond to the diverse needs of students and families, ensuring their wellbeing and safety remain at the heart of all decisions. In addition, my mental health training has given me a holistic and empathetic approach to supporting others, enabling me to contribute meaningfully to creating inclusive and nurturing environments.

I believe these skills and experiences would allow me to make a valuable contribution to the governing body, offering both insight and practical understanding to help the school continue to provide the best outcomes for every student.

### Joanne Jørgensen

As a parent of two Year 7 pupils at Deptford Green, I've been inspired by the school's vibrant community, diversity, and emphasis on inclusivity and creativity. Visiting the school recently reaffirmed my belief in its bright, innovative environment where every child can thrive.

Born in Glasgow, I studied at Glasgow School of Art and have worked globally as a designer, creative director and executive coach – working in leadership with global brands like Nike, Nautica, and Marks and Spencer. I have a deep understanding that creative thinking and problem-solving are more important than ever; not just in creative careers, but in boardrooms, government, and solving societal challenges we face today. These skills are vital to building a better future for all.

Having learned that dyslexia is my superpower – giving me a different way of thinking – I strongly believe in the value of nurturing diverse minds and perspectives. I believe that fostering diversity and innovative mindset is essential for creating an equitable and sustainable world.

I am also passionate about supporting young talent. I speak on stages and schools around the world on creativity, design and sustainability. Most recently I co-designed an innovative resource for Daydream Believers that launched in August 2025, engaging over 2,500 children in designing the sneaker of their generation. More about the organisation and the free resources for all here: <https://daydreambelievers.co.uk/new-resource/>.

As a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts and a Freeman of the Cordwainers Livery, I actively collaborate with schools, universities, award design prizes, and mentor emerging creatives. In August this year I was invited to speak at The House of Lords on Circular and sustainable innovation at scale.

My goal as a governor is to support Deptford Green in becoming a leader in fostering innovation, diversity, and creativity—equipping our students with the skills to succeed and make a positive difference in the world.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

### **Kadiatu Williams**

I am a parent and a Community Psychiatric Nurse/ Mental Health Nurse working within the NHS, I am deeply committed to supporting young people's wellbeing, education, and development. I have over ten years of experience working in mental health services across Lewisham, and I understand the importance of inclusive, safe, and high-achieving school environments. I believe my professional background in safeguarding, care coordination, and advocacy equips me to contribute meaningfully to the strategic direction of Deptford Green.

I am passionate about ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive, and I would be honoured to represent parents and work collaboratively with the governing body to support the school's continued growth and success.

### **AfrAh Ali**

I believe my unique skills and experiences would complement and add value to the existing group of governors, supporting more informed and balanced decision-making. I aim to contribute a fresh perspective and deeper understanding of key matters. My background as a teacher enables me to empathise with both staff and leadership, helping to establish and uphold realistic, efficient, and transparent standards that will support the school's continued growth.

### **Olajide Akinbiyi**

Having lived in the Deptford area for most of my life and very briefly attended Deptford Green, now having 2 of my children attending the school I feel my knowledge of the area, my experience of working with young people in work environments and also having my own little team of children I have the experience, patience and wisdom to help both the school board the kids and in doing so learn more which benefits all parties involved.

### **Edosa Idupaye**

I think I am the qualified candidate for this role based on my past experience I had through the Haberdashers' Aske's college governing body team.

### **Gregory Onwidi**

I am Dr. Gregory Onwidi, a dedicated parent and experienced educator with a PhD in Computer Science, and I am excited to express my interest in becoming a Parent Governor of Deptford Green Secondary School in Lewisham, London. As a parent of a Grade 11 student, I have witnessed the school's commitment to academic excellence, its supportive community, and the passion of its staff.

With my technical expertise, I am confident that I can make a valuable contribution to the school's leadership team, particularly in areas such as digital literacy, STEM education, and strategic planning. My experience in education and my understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing schools today will enable me to provide informed and effective governance.

If elected, I will bring a fresh perspective, technical expertise, and a strong work ethic to the role. I am committed to working collaboratively with staff, parents, and stakeholders to ensure that Deptford Green Secondary School continues to thrive and provide an outstanding education to its students.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the school and contribute to its ongoing success.