

## Fountaindale School - Governor Pen Portraits:

### Sacha Schofield - Chair



Sacha has worked as a Headteacher and Executive Headteacher in Sheffield and has a successful record of school improvement, securing outstanding judgements at two of her previous schools. She was awarded NLE status in 2017 and has represented Sheffield Special School Headteachers at the Sheffield Inclusion Board, Sheffield School's Forum and the Sheffield Speech and Language Steering Group.

Sacha is passionate about enabling children to succeed, flourish as individuals and make positive contributions to their community. She hopes to work collaboratively with staff, families and children to support Fountaindale School on its journey.

To contact the Chair of our Academy Council, please email [clerkingservices@nexusmat.org](mailto:clerkingservices@nexusmat.org)

### Ben Norman - Headteacher



Ben joined Fountaindale School as Headteacher in April 2026, bringing extensive experience across both specialist and mainstream education and a strong commitment to inclusive practice. He has worked in specialist settings for many years, most recently as Deputy Principal at Dawn House School and previously as Assistant Headteacher at Swanwick School and Sports College, following an earlier career teaching PE and Computing and serving as Head of Year at St Mary's Catholic High School in Chesterfield. These experiences have shaped his belief that every child - regardless of need or starting point - deserves an ambitious, engaging education and the opportunity to thrive. Outside of school, Ben enjoys sport and skiing, values travelling and exploring new places, and at home is kept busy by his young daughter, with his mood occasionally influenced by the latest football results.

### Julie Bullock - Teacher Governor



Julie brings extensive experience across education and elite disability sport. She served as Lead Coach for BC3 Boccia at the London 2012 Paralympic Games and spent 12 years working with Boccia England and GB Boccia alongside her teaching career, coaching and supporting athletes at international competitions worldwide. Julie is a highly experienced educator with 17 years at Fountaindale, primarily within the Early Years Foundation Stage, and is currently completing her NPQ in Early Years (due October 2026). She is also seconded by the Minerva Learning Trust to lead the Physical Disability Enhanced Resource provision at Dunston Primary School, reflecting her expertise in supporting children with SEND, particularly those with physical and sensory impairments. Outside of work, Julie enjoys spending time with her family, especially her two daughters and is a member of the Clowne Road Runners Running Club.

### Gayle Bowmer – Support Staff Governor



Gayle brings extensive experience in safeguarding and family support, having worked across a range of educational settings, including Fountaindale. She is an experienced Safeguarding and Attendance Lead, a strong advocate for parents and has in-depth knowledge of local support services. Gayle is deeply committed to pupil wellbeing and is currently studying for a Master's in Play Therapy, further strengthening her work in supporting children's emotional and mental health and in creating safe, nurturing environments where all pupils can thrive.