



**BEACONWOOD
COLLEGE**

JUDGING PANEL



JUDGES

JEREMY LEFROY

- MP for Stafford since 2010
- Chair of the International Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF
- Member of the Joint Human Rights Committee
- Co-founded Equity for Africa – which aims to tackle poverty through enterprise and job creation
- Helped to establish the charity Stafford Works – promoting apprenticeships and entrepreneurship in the Stafford constituency
- Trustee of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine



PHILIP ATKINS

- Member of the Staffordshire County Council for 30 years and was elected Leader in 2009
- Previously a member of East Staffordshire Borough Council and Deputy Leader between 2003-2008
- Awarded an OBE on the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2016
- Chairman of West Midlands Councils in 2010 and was elected Vice Chairman of the County Council Network in 2016
- Represents an incredibly diverse division in Staffordshire that covers both rural areas and the headquarters for JCB, one of the UK's leading manufacturing exporters and global brand



JUDGES

COUNCILLOR PATRICK FARRINGTON

- Born in Lancashire, Patrick has lived and worked in Staffordshire since 1987
- Worked as a lifeguard before qualifying as a solicitor in 1990
- Has worked for Hand Morgan and Owen Solicitors for almost 20 years, and has been the Managing Partner since 2014
- Company Secretary for Katherine House Hospice since 2002
- A High Court Enforcement Officer for England and Wales since 2004 and former Director of the National Board of High Court Enforcement Officers
- First elected as Borough Councillor for Stafford in 2003, has been a Cabinet Member since 2007 and became Leader of Stafford Borough Council in February 2015
- Joined the Executive Board of the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire LEP in 2015



SARA WILLIAMS

- Chief Executive of North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce since November 2011 and has overseen the creation of the powerful Chambers of Commerce group
- Previously Director of Enterprise at St Helens Chambers
- Has a wealth of experience working alongside the private sector; developing services in response to their needs, as well as lobbying for and representing businesses
- Sara has previously worked in marketing and community development, as well as museums and galleries



IAN THOMPSON

- Attended University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, where he obtained a degree in Town Planning
- A qualified Chartered Surveyor, Ian was previously a Town Planner in the north east of England before joining Lichfield District Council. Later promoted to Director of Development, he was responsible for all aspects of planning, economic development and building regulation.
- Moved to Stafford Borough Council in 2005 as Executive Director for Community Services
- Appointed as Chief Executive in 2008 and was responsible for providing strategic leadership as well as running local services
- Now working as a consultant, Ian is advising the New Beacon Group on the development of the Beaconside Campus for education and other purposes.



RICHARD PASCOE

- Executive Director of Great Britain China Centre
- Works towards creating political dialogue between China and the UK, as well building legal and judicial partnerships to improve global trade, investment and sustainable development
- Formerly Director of the China Policy Institute of the University of Nottingham from 2004-2010
- Fluent in Mandarin, Richard was previously a manager and correspondent with Reuters, the world news and information – and headed the company's businesses in Indonesia, Taiwan, China and Japan.
- Member of the Institute of Directors and a founding member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan, and a committee member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Beijing in Tokyo.

MICHELLE LOWE

- Professor and Director of the Institute of Education at University of Wolverhampton
- Over 25 years of experience in education, including senior leadership and management roles
- Specialises in the development of pupil literacy – with extensive experience within special needs education and support for learners for whom English is an additional language
- Previously worked with a Local Authority as an Advisor supporting school improvement
- Author of 'Beginning Research', a guide to research methods for Foundation Degree students



JUDGES

KAI LIU

- Chief executive of New Beacon group
- Chair and Trustee of YanFu Foundation
- Member of the American Sociological Association, the British Academy of Management and the Academy of international Business
- Specialises in intercultural communication, cultural industries and economic sociology, advising leading industrial, cultural and educational institutions in China



Submit your entries at:

beaconwood.org

