

#GfSConference21



Governors
for Schools
Conference
2021.

**Supporting your alumni's professional
development
through school governance.**

Administration

- Closed captions are available
- Speakers have been invited to share a short verbal description of themselves
- Chat function is disabled
- Please enter any questions using the Q&A panel
- This session is being recorded; links to the video will be sent out
- We will also send links to slides, resources, and contact details of our guest speakers
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Governors for Schools

Today we will outline:

- Who are Governors for Schools?
- How we support governing boards with recruitment
- Information on existing University alumni partnerships and introductions from;
 - Angela Hind & David Wedge, from University of Wolverhampton
 - Helen Foote, from The University of Manchester
- Q&A and find out how you can get involved.



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Who are Governors for Schools?



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How do we recruit volunteers?

- Corporate partnerships
- University partnerships
- Membership organisations
- Head hunting
- Social media



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How we support governing boards with recruitment

School registers the vacancy with us



We analyse our volunteer pool to find the best match



We make introductions between the volunteer and school



Supporting partnerships



- Angela Hind
Schools and Colleges Partnerships Manager
- David Wedge
Alumni Manager
- Helen Foote
Senior Alumni Officer



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Background

- Part of the University's UK Partnerships work with schools and colleges
- Part of the University's Regional Engagement Strategy within Vision 2030
- University of Wolverhampton's long track record of supporting the education sector in the region
- Started working with Governors for Schools in 2019



Particular methods for engagement

- Bespoke/targeted email campaigns
- Social media profile
- Quarterly newsletters
- Webinars and further discussion of the opportunity in the virtual event space during lockdowns
- Dedicated expression of interest form on webpage



Stating the benefits as a method to engage

- Strategic, board-level experience and influence
- Transferable skills that can be applied in a range of other contexts
- Access to specialist online training, webinars and resources through Governors for Schools
- Alumni school governor volunteers proud of the University of Wolverhampton – positive association
- Opportunity to have a positive impact on the lives of children and young people in your local community



Challenges and how we addressed them

- Upfront about the level of commitment required to volunteer as a school governor from the outset
- Early 2021 lockdown a challenge – scheduling more promotion and Q&A activity as virtual
- Rapidly changing public health and education policy guidelines and recommendations on a national level



Success stories and plans for the future

Each governor experience is so different that we've not felt able to identify a single case study at this stage

The diversity of our alumni volunteers

Working together on the scheme from different departments/perspectives but agreeing our shared goal

Level of interest from alumni in making this commitment has remained high despite complexities of the pandemic

Gold partner level status remains the goal!



UoM/GfS partnership

- 2021 marks our 10 year partnership with GfS
- First University to partner with GfS



350 staff governors

have been placed in
schools since 2014



placed into state
schools and colleges



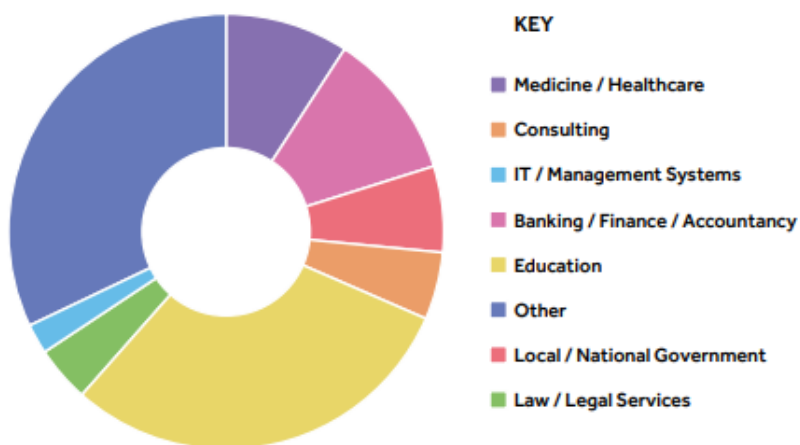
1,000+ alumni

have been placed in
schools since 2014

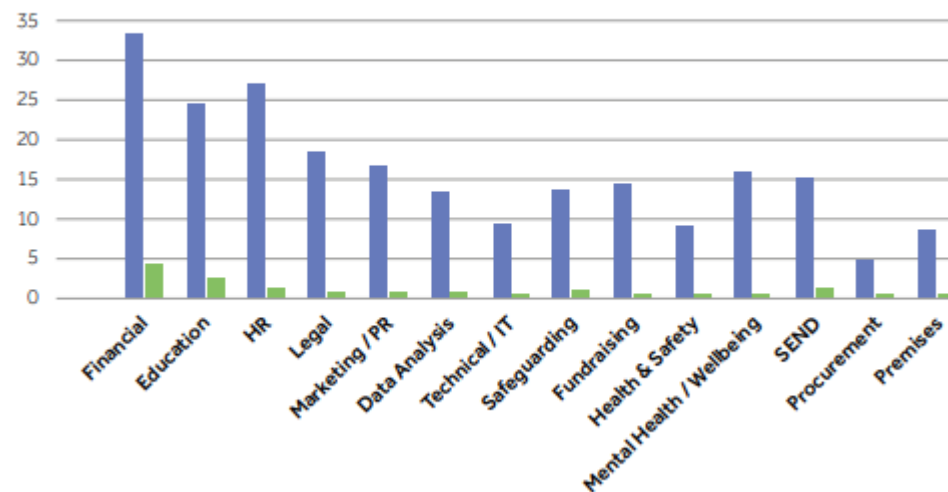


Why we partnered with GfS

Alumni professions



Skills requests by schools (%)





Impact

- 1,116 alumni
- Financial support to schools: £5,175,418.75
- 53,568 days/year
- Impacting approx. 390,600 learners
- Total impact combined with staff school governors:
- Financial support to schools: £5,515,418.75
- 64,032 days/year
- Impacting approx. 488,600 learners



Thanking and supporting our alumni

- We offer letters to managers and LinkedIn recommendations to highlight alumni support
- Tailored resources and communications provided by GfS
- Invitations to professional development webinars hosted by GfS
- Christmas thank you message and impact communications



Challenges and future plans

- The pandemic has impacted school governor recruitment and our recruitment numbers have been lower in 2021
- Hope to further develop networking opportunities for our School Governors
- Positive – there is a much broader offering of online support available for existing governors thanks to the pandemic

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Questions

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**Thank you for attending, we hope you
enjoyed the session**

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