LINK19 College — Board of Directors (Trustees)

Our Board provides strategic leadership and direction to ensure high-quality provision and outcomes for post-19 learners with special educational needs and disabilities.

Maddie Arnold-Jones — Chair of Directors (appointed 23 January 2018)

A founding Director and current Chair, Maddie leads the strategic vision for post-19 learners, working collaboratively with the Board.

Current role: Interim Executive Headteacher of The Cedar Federation, Ifield School (an outstanding provider for pupils with profound, severe and complex needs) and King's Farm Primary School (a good provider for Primary aged pupils).

Qualifications: QTS (2008); MSc in Cognition and Learning (2013).

Wider roles: Trustee and Co-Chair of the Kent Special Educational Needs Trust (KsENT); Trustee of the Gravesham Learning Partnership (GLP); Safeguarding Governor at Bower Grove School; SEND representative for the Kent Association of Headteachers (KAH) North Area Board.

Focus at LINK19 College: A passionate, innovative leader, committed to delivering the best possible provision and outcomes for SEND learners.

Sheila Dance — Director (appointed 24 August 2022)

Sheila brings deep knowledge of Kent's education system and pathways for young people, particularly those with SEND.

Experience: 35 years across secondary and further education in Kent, including 20 years in senior leadership. Most recent roles: Deputy Headteacher at a local secondary school and Assistant Principal at North Kent College with responsibility for English and maths delivery, SEND and safeguarding (Designated Safeguarding Officer).

Mark Cullen — Director (appointed 1 July 2025)

Mark worked primarily in financial services with banks and fintechs before moving into the charity sector in 2021.

Current role: Community Fundraising Manager at Valley Hospital Charity (the charity of Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust), engaging with local companies, associations, colleges and schools.

Focus and interests: Passionate about fundraising and giving back to the North Kent community. Outside work, Mark is a keen cyclist and has completed several well-known cycling challenges.

John Gorton — Director (appointed 24 January 2023)

John brings an extensive career in the emergency services, including service as Head of Transport for several UK police forces and Chair of the National Association of Police Fleet Managers. He now runs a consultancy and is currently supporting Kent Fire and Rescue.

Personal commitment: John’s passion for special education is both professional and personal, having supported a son through SEN provision into full-time employment and independent living. John is committed to helping LINK19 learners build confidence, independence and employability skills and to strengthening partnerships with employers and community organisations.