**Chair of Trustees appointment brief**

**About Physics Partners**

Many children are not attracted to physics and miss out on both the wonders of an inherently fascinating subject and the many lucrative and rewarding careers that arise from it. This is due in no small part to the fact that in many state schools there are no qualified physics teachers. Non-specialist teachers are now teaching the subject, particularly at GCSE level.

Whilst they may be inherently good teachers, they often lack the in-depth understanding of physics to offer inspiring lessons and the confidence to demonstrate or supervise exciting practical work. The result is a decline in students taking the subject post-16. This crisis in numbers is having an impact not only on the subject’s long-term sustainability, but also on the very many industries that rely on physics specialists such as science, engineering and computing.

Physics Partners trains non-specialist teachers to help them improve their physics subject knowledge. This in turn enables them to gain greater skills and confidence, inspiring more pupils, particularly girls, to study Post-16 Physics and eventually to undertake physics-related careers. Training to build confidence in practical work is at the heart of what we do as we see this as essential for engagement with the subject.

We currently work with about 10% of state secondary schools in England but there is much more still to do. We are committed to extending our current reach, especially in areas of disadvantage and social deprivation.

## Board of Trustees

We have an active and committed board of Trustees including:

* Mary Breen: Schools Adviser, Farrer & Co, Former Head of Physics, Eton College and Former Head, St Mary’s School, Ascot
* Andrew Burton OBE: Former Air Vice-Marshal and Head of Royal Air Force Administration; Former Bursar and Clerk to the Governors at Sevenoaks School
* Thomas Cookson MBE: Former Head of King Edward V1 School, Southampton; Sevenoaks School and Winchester College
* Winston Ginsberg: Member of the Management Advisory Board and former Partner of TowerBrook Capital Partners
* Andrew Golding: Independent investor and Non-Executive Director. Former roles include Banking Partner at 3i Group, Livery Company Master and Governor of Sevenoaks School, Kent
* Dr Andrea Mapplebeck: Founder and Director of Formative Education Limited, Former Co-Head of the National Science Learning Centre Programme, and Science National Strategy Consultant.
* Dr Arpan Mehta: Neurology registrar at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, and former MRC Lady Edith Wolfson Clinical Fellow and Rowling Scholar, University of Edinburgh.
* Emma Smart: Head of Science, Bedford Girls’ School
* Krysia Sosin: Deputy Headteacher, Chace Community School, Enfield

**Key accountabilities**

The Chair of Trustees is responsible to the Board of Trustees for the leadership of the Charity. The role will require the successful candidate to:

* Provide strategic leadership to Physics Partners and its Board and ensure that it operates within its charitable objectives.
* Ensure that meetings are well planned and conducted.
* Build a strong, working relationship with the Chief Executive to ensure that the Charity’s goals are met.
* Take an active role in supporting fundraising initiatives.
* Ensure compliance with all statutory requirements.
* Regularly review the composition of the Board and oversee the appointment of new Trustees and the CEO.

**Person specification**

The Trustees are seeking candidates with experience of governance, a strong interest in education and excellent interpersonal skills. Additionally, the Charity is looking for candidates who can bring:

* A wholehearted commitment to the organisation and its work.
* Excellent engagement skills and an aptitude for engaging with stakeholders at all levels.
* A commitment to fairness and to promoting equality and inclusion.
* A knowledge of STEM education is not essential.