

## **Stephen 'Whiskey' Walker**

Although I have just joined the board of Governors, I have been connected with Molescroft Primary School for 6 ½ years through our son Charlie, now in Year 6; also, my wife works and volunteers in the classroom and with the orchestra. I have been consistently impressed, indeed amazed, by the level of dedication and imagination employed in the school to deliver a most exceptional education for all.

Born in Blackpool, I was educated at the local primary school and secondary modern. Academia was not for me as a child and I started work at BAE as an apprentice aged 16. In my early twenties, and after many adventures travelling and working on a sailing ship, I decided on a career change. I joined the Royal Navy, qualified as a Warfare Officer in the Submarine Service and had the pleasure of meeting many special people from all walks of life whilst travelling around the world (mostly underwater!). My Naval career also gave me the opportunity to work with the US Navy in Connecticut for 2 years. I returned to the UK for promotion and selection to command the submarine HMS Victorious, followed by a second command, this time in HMS Astute. I had the honour of managing assets worth over £1bn and leading inspired and inspiring teams of between 150-210 engineers, sailors and logisticians. Post Command I worked in Navy programming where I regularly briefed up to Ministerial level in Government before then working on loan in the Department for International Trade promoting the UK Defence Industry in the Export Market.

I completed my Navy career in March 2020 just as the first lockdown began and thoroughly enjoyed 4 months of blissful dedicated home time. In August 2020 I joined the UK Sales Team in the Defence and Technology company Thales UK where I utilise my experience in Submarines to help make the link between the company products and Navy customers.

Outside of work and family time, I like swimming, running and cycling, competing in endurance sports and restoring my classic Range Rover. I'm also the Group Secretary for 1st Molescroft Scout Group.