

School Governors

September 2021

Alison Paines Chair and Nominated Safeguarding Governor, is a partner at the law firm Withers LLP in the Charities and Philanthropy department advising non-profit service providers, grant-makers, educational institutions, aid agencies and research institutes, as well as individual and corporate philanthropists, on charity and related tax, trust and commercial matters. She has been the Chairman of the Charity Law Association, a trustee of two charitable foundations, and also a trustee of Academies Enterprise Trust, a national network of 64 primary, special and secondary academies. Her three daughters all attended the School.

Sarah Davies is the present representative of the heirs of the Godolphin family. She is an arts manager and creative learning consultant. She specialises in public art curation, creative and cultural sector research and strategy, and evaluation management for art and education programmes. Her work history includes: manager of a national research programme for Arts Council England; five years with Cambridge Education Authority's school improvement services for the arts and sports; curator and lecturer for University of the Arts London; and consultant for A New Direction, London's strategic body for arts and cultural learning.

Simon Davies Chair of Finance, Audit and Investment Committee, is the Founder of Sand Grove Capital Management, a European investment business. Prior to that he was a Partner at Cheyne Capital Management, a large European asset management business, where he was the Head of the Special Situations Division for many years; responsible for an investment team and multiple funds. He has spent his entire professional career in the investment industry, focusing on many sectors and asset classes, and building, developing and running multiple investment products. Simon was educated at Wadham College, Oxford where he read mathematics.

Mark Esiri works at Venrex, a London venture capital firm, which he co-founded in 2002. Mark is, or has been, a Board Director of portfolio companies, including Islestarr Holdings Limited (t/a Charlotte Tilbury) (sold), Lyst.com, Notonthehighstreet.com (sold), and Mumsnet. In addition Mark is a Governor of Eton College, was a Board Director of Knightsbridge School from launch, and is the 2021 Visiting Clore Innovation Professor at the Royal College of Art. At Eton, Mark is on the Investment Committee and Chairs EtonX, Eton's nascent online business. Previously, Mark was a Partner at New York Private Equity firm Wand Partners until he returned to London in 2001. While in the USA Mark was a founding member of the Internet Advertising Board's (IAB) Measurement Committee. In addition, Mark was, for eight years, Vice Chairman of Save the Children UK (on the Nominations, Finance and Remuneration Committees) retiring in July 2017. Mark has an LLB from University College London and an MBA from the University of Greenwich. Mark's MBA dissertation, "Informal Investment in SMEs", was published in 1993. Mark is married to Allie, and they have 3 children, one of which is a current Godolphin and Latymer student. The family lives in West London.

Glen Fendley is Director of Fundraising at London Youth, a charity that works with a network of over 400 community youth organisations, and creates opportunities for tens of thousands of young Londoners each year through our sports development, employability, youth social action, arts, and outdoor education programmes. Prior to joining London Youth, Glen was senior advisor in fundraising and philanthropy at RSAcademics, a leading global consultancy in school leadership and recruitment. Over the last 25 years, Glen has worked for a range of high-profile charities in the country, including the NSPCC and WWF-UK. Over the last decade, he has specialised in supporting educational institutions, and was Head of Development at the Girls' Day School Trust, one of the largest independent school trusts in the UK. He was previously the Chair of the Institute of Development Professionals in Education, the professional body that empowers schools to fundraise effectively from their own communities. He is also currently a Trustee of the Dukes Foundation, The British Racing School, and The London Warriors Sports Club.

Tim Howe QC Deputy Chair of Governors is a Barrister specialising in the banking, financial services, energy and insurance industries. He is also an arbitrator and accredited mediator in commercial disputes. He was called to the Bar in 1987 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2008. From 2008 to 2010 he was the Chairman of the Bar Council Member Services Board and he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Commercial Bar Association. He was educated at St Paul's School and Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was a Classics Scholar and the Editor of ISIS magazine. He has two daughters, the younger of whom was a pupil at Godolphin, and a son. He has been actively involved as a member of the Godolphin Capital Campaign board. He is also a Trustee of the British Heart Foundation.

Sue Kinross Deputy Nominated Safeguarding Governor (Prep School). Sue worked in Consumer Research for 7 years, and travelled and taught English in South America for 3 years, before deciding in 1983 that teaching Mathematics was definitely the career for her. Since then she has taught in a wide variety of secondary schools in both state and independent sectors. She spent the last 15 years of her teaching career at Godolphin and Latymer (2000 – 2015); she joined as a teacher of mathematics in 2000, was appointed to the Senior Team in 2006 and to the role of Director of Studies in 2010.

Kevin Knibbs is a career schoolmaster - History teacher, Head of Lower School and Senior Master at Bolton School, before joining Hampton School in 2007 as Deputy Head. He has been Headmaster at Hampton since 2013. Kevin is Chair of the HMC Sports Sub-committee and a member of the Independent Schools FA Executive Committee.

Leonard Magrill is Chair of the Health, Safety and Risk Management Committee. Leonard also sits on the Finance and Audit Committee, Policy and Governance Committee and the Investment Committee. After four years on the academic staff of Bradford University Business School, he embarked on a 25-year career with Texaco Ltd. He was promoted to be responsible for the Supply & Trading and Strategic Planning functions. He represented Texaco on a wide variety of joint venture company boards and was also appointed to the Texaco Ltd Board. For 14 years up until 2014, he was a non-executive director of Evance Wind Turbines Ltd having been Chairman during its start-up phase. He also served on the board of Renewable UK, the leading trade association for the sector for five years. For 8 years, he was elected as member nominated trustee for the Chevron UK pension fund and served on their investment committee. He is a counsellor at Executive Action and a patron of the Sutherland Trust. Leonard was a Godolphin parent for 14 years and also has two sons. His wife is also an Old Dolphin.

Neil McLaughlan has been Headmaster of Westminster Cathedral Choir School since 2007. He graduated from Durham University with a First in Philosophy and Politics, before working in management consultancy with Accenture (then Andersen Consulting). In 1997 he took up a vocational career in teaching, first at Worth School and then as Head of English and Director of Admissions at Downside School. Neil lives in London and is married to Philippa. They have two children: Miranda (15) who is at Godolphin and Latmyer School, and Edmund (14) who is at KCS Wimbledon.

Tracy Meller is an Architect and Partner at Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners. Since joining the practice in 1999 Tracy has led a number of large schemes on complex urban sites primarily in the residential and education sectors, including Mossbourne Community Academy, Neo Bankside and the latest building for the London School of Economics. In addition Tracy is the partner responsible for HR, managing the internal staff development and resourcing for RSHP and leading the recruitment team. Tracy is a founder member of the Higher Education Design Quality Forum (HEDQF) a group that exists to promote high quality design in university campuses, buildings and estates, and has for several years been a judge on the RIBA Awards Group, The Architects Journal Awards, Civic Trust awards and most recently the AJ Women in Architecture awards. Tracy is an Honorary professor of Architecture at Nottingham University and has lectured at a number of universities and schools, promoting the work of the practice and in particular working to attract more young women to the industry.

Diana Rose Chair of Education Committee and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Governor, a career teacher who spent 15 years in state grammar schools and then became Head of Sixth Form at St Helen's Northwood, Deputy Head of Oxford High School and eventually Head of The Royal Masonic School for Girls, retiring in December 2016. She chairs the Education Committees at Wycombe Abbey and Kingston Grammar School and is on the Executive of a Multi-Academy Trust in Herts. She has been an ISI Inspector and is currently a Quality Assurance Inspector for ISTIP. A member of the Wolfson Foundation Education Panel for 24 years, she is very interested in promoting access and works on a higher education access programme with the Sutton Trust. She was one of the first generation of women to attend Kings College, Cambridge where she studied History and Social & Political Sciences.

Kate Slesinger, Kate's most recent role was that of Publishing Director at Condé Nast Britain, where she ran, successively, the Condé Nast Traveller, House & Garden, Tatler and Vanity Fair brands across print, digital, social and events platforms. Her 27-year career at Condé Nast includes 8 years on Vogue, where she rose to the position of Associate Publisher, helping steer the flagship title to record-setting circulation figures and commercial success. Having started her professional life at WPP with J Walter Thompson in London and New York, Kate's business background combines advertising and marketing knowledge with sales, PR and media expertise. Kate has served on numerous fundraising committees and has recently been appointed to the newly-formed Development Advisory Group at Caius College, Cambridge University. She has an MA in Modern & Medieval Languages from Caius College, Cambridge, having attended St Paul's Girls' School. Kate has three daughters, one of whom is in Y12 at Godolphin.

Elisabeth Watson, Deputy Nominated Safeguarding Governor (Godolphin and Latymer), was a career teacher who has taught French, German, English and Portuguese in a variety of schools in the state and independent sectors, in both England and Brazil. She moved to Twickenham in 1982 and worked at Hampton School from 1983-2020, where she was Head of Lower School and then Assistant Head with responsibility for External Relations for many years. She has been a governor of Denmead School, (now Hampton Prep), and Canford School in Dorset. She was educated at Edgbaston High School for Girls, Birmingham and Exeter University, where she studied French and German. On graduation, she worked in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office until she got married and relocated to Birmingham, where she studied for her PGCE.

Oliver Waring, a member of the Finance Committee and the Health, Safety and Risk Management Committee, is Chairman of a Transportation Services Company, Reflex Vehicle Hire Limited, a position he has held since 2012, and since 2021 Co-founding Chief Executive of MegaSense Oy, a project driven by the Helsinki University Departments of Computer & Atmospheric Sciences. Prior to this he was Chief Executive of a listed company in the forestry sector and a corporate financier at Lazard in London. He was educated at Harrow School, read Human Sciences at Jesus College, Oxford and holds an LLB from King's College London. He has three children, the eldest of whom attends the School.

The Chairman of Governors and the Head Mistress can both be contacted care of the school.
Diana Lynch, Bursar and Clerk to the Governors.

In Attendance

Cliff Hampton, the Chairman of Bursary Fund Trustees is also Global Chair of Opportunity International, a Charity involved with micro finance. He has served on a number of Boards and was previously Chairman of Fenchurch Advisory Partners and Lexicon Partners. He is a Chartered Accountant and was a Partner at Spicer & Oppenheim for many years. He was previously Chairman of Governors at Godolphin & Latymer from 2010 to 2016 and is a past President of the Alumni Association of the City of London School.