

School Governors

January 2023

Simon Davies Chair of Governors, 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.

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.

Mark Esiri Chair of Finance, Audit and Investment Committee, 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 attended Godolphin and Latymer. The family lives in West London.

Tim Howe KC 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 Chair of the Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA).

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. For many years he has been Treasurer of the Richmond Jewish Community and is a Trustee of the Richmond Synagogue Charitable Fund. Leonard was a Godolphin parent for 14 years and also has two sons. His wife is also an Old Dolphin.

Neil McLaughlan is Chair of the Education Committee. Neil 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 has two children: Miranda, who is at Godolphin and Latmyer School, and Edmund, who is at KCS Wimbledon.

Jane McNeill KC works as a mediator and investigator and sits as a part-time (fee-paid) Employment Judge and as a Recorder in the County Court. She was in practice at the Bar until 2018, where she specialised in employment, discrimination and personal injury law. She appeared in many leading cases in the employment and discrimination fields; edited the second Equality and Diversity Code for the Bar; was head of her Chambers for six years; and was on the Council (Board) of Acas (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) for seven years. She has led investigations involving whistleblowing and allegations of discrimination and other unlawful treatment in the secondary and higher education, private and third sectors. Jane is a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, where she chairs the Staff Committee, and is an Honorary Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. She graduated in modern languages (Italian and French) from the University of Oxford before qualifying as a barrister. She is married and has two (now adult) children and lives in London.

Tracy Meller is an Architect and Senior Partner at RSHP Architects. 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 Trustee of the University Design Forum, 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.

Alison Paines 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. She is currently appointed by the National Lottery Community Fund as Protector of the Forces in Mind Trust. Her three daughters all attended the School.

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.

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.