

School Governors

Simon Davies Chair of Governors, is the Founder of an 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.

Tracy Meller Vice Chair of Governors, 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.

Neil McLaughlan, Chair of Education Committee, has been Head of Westminster Cathedral Choir School since 2007. He graduated from Durham University with a First in Philosophy and Politics, before working in management consultancy. 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 teenage children.

Mark Esiri Chair of Finance and General Purposes 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, and is an Observer at ME+EM. In addition Mark is a Governor of Eton College, was founding Board Director of Knightsbridge School, and was the 2021 Visiting Clore Innovation Professor at the Royal College of Art where he is an Honorary Fellow. At Eton, Mark is on the Investment, Partnership and Nominations Committees and Chaired EtonX, Eton's online business. Mark was, for eight years, Vice Chairman of Save the Children UK (on the Nominations, Finance and Remuneration Committees) retiring in July 2017. He is currently an Independent Non Executive Director of the Football Association ("The FA") where he is on the Remuneration Committee. 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.

Leonard Magrill 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.

Mary Hill Safeguarding Governor, is a psychologist, practising in her own private practice, with a particular emphasis on adolescent mental health. She runs psychoeducational seminars and talks for schools and parents, and worked as a counsellor at Godolphin & Latymer for 7 years. She is experienced in many other mental health settings including NHS work, public sector and corporate psychological support. She is an associate fellow of the British Psychological Society, undertaking extensive research in childhood developmental psychology as part of her doctoral award. Prior to training as a psychologist, she had a successful career in investment banking and private equity. Mary is an Old Dolphin (née Clippingdale), is married with three grown up children, and is co-founder of a 14-acre vineyard in Hampshire.

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.

Sue Kinross RSE Governor. 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).

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.

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.

In Attendance

Alison Paines Chair of the Bursary Fund Trustees, is a consultant (formerly partner) at the law firm Withers LLP in the Charities and Philanthropy department. She has been the Chair of the Charity Law Association, a trustee of two grant-making charitable foundations, and also a trustee of a multi-academy 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, and by DCMS as Protector of the Millennium Awards Trust. Her three daughters all attended the School. She was previously Chair of Governors at Godolphin & Latymer from 2017 to 2022.