



Governor Biographies

Sarah Beeching

As a Tiffin Girls' alumna (1981-88), I was delighted to join the Board of Governors in 2017 and take on the Chair role in 2022. The school gave me so much and it is an honour to be able to give back. I am an economist by profession having gained an MSc in Economics from University of London. My first career was in Government where I spent 15 years working for the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and Cabinet Office. In 2011 I founded Oshun Partnership, a social enterprise focusing on policy and political negotiations, campaign management and the delivery of high level political summits. My focus is tackling issues in some of the world's most challenging places, focusing particularly on girls' education, health and climate justice. I am fortunate to have travelled the world for work and pleasure. I am a Fellow and Advisory Board member for The RSA, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a member of WHO Technical Advisory Committees for urban malaria and rabies. I am also mum to a son and daughter who I'm proud to say have fully adopted their mother's spirit of adventure.

Kate Bevan

I had a very happy seven years at Tiffin Girls' from 1992-1999 and am so pleased to now have the opportunity to give back to the school that gave me so much: a fantastic education, high aspirations and friends for life. After Tiffin Girls', I read History at Exeter University and then gained my PGCE from Cambridge University. I started teaching in a junior school in Twickenham and completed an MA in education at St Mary's University. My teaching career has been varied thus far, working as a Year 2 and 3 form teacher and then a specialist history teacher in Key Stages 2 and 3. For three years I was Director of Studies at Danes Hill School in Oxshott, overseeing a wide-ranging curriculum for pupils aged 3 to 13. I was then Head of Ibstock Place Prep School, before taking a year out to explore other opportunities and interests in the field of education. In September 2021 I took up the post of Head of Junior School at Notting Hill and Ealing High School GDST.

Zak Farooqi

I am a Chartered Accountant by trade having completed my ACA (ICAEW) qualification back in 2009 before moving from Audit (practice) and in to industry based roles. I have since been employed by renewable energy companies and worked in many different finance roles as I have progressed and this has given me great exposure and breadth of knowledge in my field, furthermore I currently work as Head of Finance at one of the largest renewable energy providers in Europe. I have a daughter at the school who has been part of the 2023 intake and am hoping to use my financial and business experience to help support the governing board to create the best educational environment possible for its students and maintain its continued success.

Shelley Frost

I am a Chartered Surveyor and Global Head of Real Estate Strategy at dsm-firmenich, a global perfumer, tastes, textures and flavours company. Previously I worked at Mace and Cumming group, construction companies and as an International Director at JLL for 14 years. I am looking forward to continuing to bring my Chartered Surveying experience to bear on the various property projects and developments that the school has planned. I am the product of a selective education having attended a girls' state grammar school in Buckinghamshire. My successful career in property has been as a result of the achievements there. I also previously served as a Governor at Kingston College and have served on the Global Board of our industry association, CoreNet, the London Council of the CBI, and the fundraising committee of the charity LandAid which seeks to end youth homelessness.

Claire Haynes

I have three daughters in secondary education / university, and have been a school governor for over 12 years and am passionate about supporting girls and young women to fulfil their potential. I have 25 years experience in business and 15 years in HR so see the value of a great and broad education in what it brings to the workplace. I'm a champion of young talent in business, particularly women, so feel privileged to play a part in contributing to Tiffin Girls being successful during their time at the school and setting them up for life beyond.

Angus Meryon

I have been involved with education since leaving the Royal College of Music in 1997, where I trained as a clarinettist and pianist. Alongside my performing work as a professional musician, I have spent time composing, conducting and accompanying as well as being a parent to my two young daughters. I am passionate about teaching and in my role as Director of Music at TGS, am lucky enough to work with our talented and motivated students on a daily basis, both in the classroom and in preparation for a range of extra-curricular events, from concerts to foreign tours. Aside from teaching, I am a trustee of a music festival in North Cornwall, where I am responsible for their safeguarding and SEND provision. Having been appointed as Staff Governor in 2023, it is a privilege to play a part in the school's development at this exciting time.

Cate Molden

A quarter of a century has passed between my leaving Tiffin and my daughter starting there. This time has been productively filled by gaining a history degree at Oxford, a career in the City as a banker, strategist and consultant, and over a decade of school governor experience in both primary and secondary sectors. I have no doubt, as a late transfer in to the school (year 9), that I owe the first two to the school, with the third being driven by a desire to give others the options that were afforded to me. It is a privilege to be able to deploy my skills to help address the challenges the school now faces and give the students opportunities to thrive.

Alison Shakespeare

I graduated in French from University College, London and then completed a PGCE at the Institute of Education. Since then I have worked in secondary education for over thirty years, holding a range of leadership positions including Head of Languages, Assistant Principal and, most recently, Vice Principal of Heathside School in Weybridge. I now work for TeachFirst as a Teacher Educator with responsibility for training teachers to work in schools facing the greatest challenges. I work with a number of local schools supporting the development of teachers and school leaders and also deliver conferences on the TeachFirst programme. Outside work I am passionate about dance and musical theatre. I also play the piano. As a former Tiffin Girls' parent, I have experienced first-hand all of the wonderful opportunities the school provides both inside and beyond the classroom. I am delighted to have been appointed as a Governor and hope to use my experience in education to support the school's continued outstanding success.

Sobia Shamim

I am a Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA) and a commercial and international finance director with over 25 years' experience within global blue-chip organisations in the corporate sector. I have previously served as a Governor at The Global Academy, a UTC specialising in the creative media industry and as Board trustee of We Are Family, a charitable organisation providing independent support for parents throughout their adoption journey. I am delighted to have been appointed as a Governor and as a resident of North Kingston, I hope to use my experience in finance to help the local community and support the school's continued outstanding success.

Perna Tambay

I am an academic and engaged scholar and I work for Kingston University. I teach HR Analytics to MSc Global Human Resource Management students. My expertise lies in HR analytics and digital HRM, with a research focus on the ethical dimensions of digital transformation and the adoption of emerging technologies. I also investigate how AI and blockchain can be leveraged to reducing modern slavery. My teaching philosophy centres on equipping students with future-focused skills, preparing them for the evolving world of work. I hold a PhD from the University of London and I have conducted extensive research on strike actions in British higher education, contributing to the development of mobilisation theory. Before transitioning to academia, I worked with the Discovery Channel, bringing valuable industry experience to my academic practice. Teaching is my life's purpose, and I am deeply committed to the belief that every learner deserves access to quality education. Outside of academia, I am a practitioner of Vipassana meditation, and I find joy in reading and taking long walks.

Matt Toolan

I am an Aeronautical Engineer by training, gaining a MEng at Imperial College, London. I graduated in 1996 and began a career in banking, specialising in Project Finance. I have played leading roles in projects that resulted in the construction and / or refurbishment of more than 25 secondary schools. I am currently involved in the financing of a large number of renewable energy projects. I am the father of two daughters, one is currently in Year 11 at The Tiffin Girls' School and one is a recent alumna of TTGS. I have been a Parent Governor at their primary school for nearly eight years, and I am delighted to have been elected by the other parents to continue in a similar role at TTGS. My knowledge of contracts, finance and school governorship experience will hopefully be of use to the Governing Board, and I look forward to helping in any way that I can.

Sthen Wiseman

For the last twenty years I have had the privilege of teaching young people in a range of state, international and independent schools. Having read History at Manchester University, I completed my PGCE at Cambridge University and later an MA in History education at the Open University. Currently I teach History and am the Head of PSHE at King's College School, Wimbledon, an independent selective school. Previously I have held a variety of academic and pastoral roles in the state sector, including being Head of History at a girl's comprehensive in Hammersmith. I also spent several years teaching abroad in America and Sri Lanka. Enabling young people to develop the emotional resilience to thrive is a passion of mine and I am fortunate to be a trustee for stem4, an excellent teenage mental health charity. I am a mother to two girls, one of whom will be moving into year 9 at this school. It is an honour to be able to contribute to the Tiffin community and I am fully committed to promoting and supporting a holistic education that combines academic rigour with the school's core ethos and values.