



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 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 Twickenham and completed an MA in education at St Mary's University. My teaching career has encompassed teaching children aged 4 to 16, as primary class teacher and then as a History specialist. I am currently Head of Junior School at Notting Hill & Ealing High School GDST, an inspector for ISI and Chair of the Education Committee at IAPS.

Kavitha Chandrasekaran

With more than 18 years of technology experience in the industry and over 10 years working as a Computer Forensic Technology specialist at KPMG UK and PwC UK, I specialise in identifying evidence in electronic data from emails, WhatsApp messages, to other digital media. I have led large-scale projects and collaborated with law firms on litigation, financial crimes, regulatory, data protection cases, and high-profile public inquiries. I hold a Master's from King's College London, where I studied cryptography, cybercrime, and IT laws, completing a dissertation for the Metropolitan Police. Having recently completed Microsoft's AI course, I stay at the forefront of emerging trends and can offer insights into responsible integration of AI in education while maintaining ethical integrity. As AI and cybersecurity become more critical in education, schools must balance innovation with digital governance. I am hoping to bring my expertise to help strengthen the school's cybersecurity, embed AI responsibly, and ensure robust digital policies, including providing best practices for data security to protect student and staff information, enhancing digital policies for GDPR compliance, and offering guidance on cyber resilience strategies to prevent phishing and data breaches. As a Parent Governor, I am looking forward to bringing a strategic mindset, technological expertise, and a forward-thinking approach to support The Tiffin Girls' School thrive in an evolving digital world.

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.

Catharine Mackey

Having studied Pharmacology and Physiology at Manchester University, followed by an MSc at Kings College London, my love of science was undiminished but I was less enthusiastic about continuing in purely academic research. In considering what I wanted to do next I reflected on how much I had enjoyed working as a water sports instructor, with young people during holidays, and the idea of a career in teaching was born. Now 18 years after I qualified, I have been roaming the labs of TTGS science block for 7 of them in various roles, including as Joint Head of Chemistry and previously as Pastoral Curriculum Coordinator. Outside of this, I am mum to two secondary-aged boys, owner of two very energetic dogs, and spend (possibly) too much time planning my next crochet/sewing project. I hope that the breadth of understanding I have gained, and am still gaining, from all of these experiences will enable me to make a constructive contribution to the Governing Board of a school community that I feel very fortunate to be a part of.

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.

Misha Patel

I attended The Tiffin Girls' School between 2011 and 2018, starting in Flavell House and later becoming Head of Nicole House. My time at Tiffin Girls' was defined by a strong sense of community, teamwork and leadership — whether through house activities or playing in many of the school's sports teams, which meant I was rarely out of my PE kit. After leaving Tiffin Girls', I studied Chemistry (BSc) at the University of Warwick before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant (ACA) in 2024. I now work at KPMG, specialising in audit and financial advisory work with FTSE 100 and multinational clients across sectors including retail, real estate and technology. Tiffin Girls' has played an important role in shaping who I am today, and I feel privileged to be part of a community that will continue to support future students in the same way. I recognise the importance of social mobility and believe in ensuring that students from all backgrounds can access the same opportunities that shaped my own education. I am also committed to supporting girls in sport and helping to maintain the ambitious, supportive environment that Tiffin Girls' is known for. Outside of work, I enjoy travelling, playing sport and volunteering through mentoring initiatives for young people.

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.

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 13 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-five 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 earned an MA in History Education. I have recently become a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching. Currently, I am the Head of Pastoral Education and teach History at King's College School, Wimbledon. Previously, I have held a variety of academic and pastoral roles in the state sector. 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 of stem4, an excellent teenage mental health charity. I am a mother to two girls; one of whom has just finished her GCSEs at this school, and the other has recently joined in Year 7. It is an honour 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.