Governor Biographies

Sarah Beeching
I am a former student at The Tiffin Girl's School (1981-88) and 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 the some of the world's most challenging places, particularly girls' education, health and climate justice. I am a Fellow of The RSA andf the Royal Geographical Society, and a member of WHO Technical Advisory Committees for urban malaria and rabies. I am currently embarking on my next career as a writer.

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 and Chair of the Education Committee at IAPS.

Kavitha Chandrasekaran
I have spent over 18 years working in technology, helping organisations manage and make sense of digital information. Much of my work is like finding a needle in a haystack – searching through millions of emails, messages and digital records to uncover important evidence. I have worked on complex investigations and high-profile public inquiries, using technology to piece together information and help establish what happened. I also hold a Master's degree in Digital Forensics from King's College London. Through my work, I have seen how technology can help solve complex problems, but also the challenges and risks that come with it. I am particularly interested in Artificial Intelligence and how it is changing the way we work, learn and use information. I hope to use my experience to support the school in making informed decisions about technology, particularly around online safety, data protection and the responsible use of AI in education.

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 currently at university, and I've served as a school governor for over sixteen years. My background spans twenty-five years in business and fifteen years in HR, including strategic people leadership, governance, and organisational development. I've seen first-hand how a broad, ambitious education shapes confidence, opportunity, and long-term success. I'm a strong advocate for developing young talent, especially women, and feel privileged to contribute to Tiffin Girls' continued success and to help set students up for life beyond school.

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 19 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 passed between my leaving TTGS and my daughter starting here. This time has been productively filled by gaining a history degree at Oxford, followed by a career in the City as a banker, strategist and consultant, plus fifteen years of school governor experience in both primary and secondary sectors alongside raising my two teenagers. As a late entrant in to the school (year 9), I experienced first-hand the marked differences that selective, girls' education can make to ambition, achievement and happiness. I am hugely grateful for the opportunities, options and lifelong friendships that the school provided me with and that my daughter currently enjoys. It is a privilege to be able to deploy my skills to help address the challenges the school faces, hopefully giving all the students opportunities to thrive both at TTGS and beyond.

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. 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 Teach First as a Programme Delivery Manager, leading a team of teacher educators across schools in London. 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. It continues to be a privilege to be able to play my part in supporting the school's exceptional 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, both recent alumna of TTGS. I was a Parent Governor at their primary school for nearly eight years, and I have been a governor here at TTGS for six.
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 is in year 8 at TGS. 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.