

Governor Pen Portraits

Sue Murray - Co-Chair of Governors

I first became a governor some 35 years ago when I was a parish councillor and was appointed as a Minor Authority governor. This was at Borough Green Primary School (BGPS) where I developed a particular interest in all matters SEN. I was a governor for 16 years, during which time for 5 years I was Chairman of Governors. I also spent two years as a Parent Governor of a mainstream secondary school with the governor link responsibility of SEN resigning when I became Chairman of Governors at BGPS.

During this time I also became a Borough Councillor for Tonbridge & Malling BC (T&MBC) and held Cabinet positions for Leisure, Youth & Arts (5 years) the Mayoralty (2 years as Mayor) and then 3 years as Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation. I am a Freeman of the Borough.

My "background" is largely political but during my working life I was employed in marketing and sales, the motor trade, cosmetics and then in brass rod and copper tubes imported from Swedish and Danish copper mills. Following marriage and two children, I was able to take a ten year career break, before deciding to retrain as a Learning Support Assistant successfully gaining a BTEC for Classroom Assistant and spent the last 12 years of my working life working in a mainstream primary school.

I am well used to giving time to the community in whatever role I have had, I am used to chairing meetings and using whatever "clout" I might still have in order to further the aims of the school.

CONNECTION TO THE SCHOOL

Before becoming a governor of GPS I had no personal connection to the school I had also vowed that after 16 years as a school governor, I would never ever take up the role again! However, the then Chairman who I had known for a number of years approached me requesting that I consider becoming a governor at Grange Park. Matthew Balfour talked me round and so I became a governor at GPS.

Shortly after this, I became Chairman of Governors and have absolute commitment to the school's success. I have fully supported the previous Headteacher, supported the Acting Headteacher and once she became Headteacher continued this support. Along the way we acquired leased premises in a nearby village, that house our Junior Department. We are now in the process of trying to acquire premises to house Key Stage 5 pupils as we are running out of space. There have been so many initiatives over the years improving the offer we make to our pupils and their families also to our staff. I am immensely proud of Grange Park School and totally committed to its continuing success.

AREAS OF INTEREST & EXPERTISE

I wouldn't say that I had any particular focus area but am genuinely interested in all aspects of curriculum and estate management.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Nothing quite like getting lost in reading a not too taxing book, oblivious to everything going on around me! Meeting up with friends, trying out new recipes, playing with my 2 year old grandson. Being kept on my toes with another interest of mine, Trustee of a charity that provides day care for adults with learning difficulties expanding into new areas of care in the community – wellbeing, bereavement, early onset dementia, support for carers etc. There are few quiet moments in my life!

Anthony Williams - Co-Chair of Governors/Chair of Resources Committee

Background & Experience

Although retired in 2003 (aged 60) I was the Managing Director of a group of manufacturing companies (part of the GEC group) with 600 employees. My professional skills were: electrical engineering, software based manufacturing systems (including robotics), marketing, financial auditing and budget setting and, of course, organisational management.

Connection to the School

In retirement, I was invited to join the Board of Governors of Grange Park School where it was thought my business experience might be useful. I have been a Grange Park Governor for approximately 17 years,

Areas of Interest & Expertise

Financial planning and auditing. Overview of Resources (staff, equipment, buildings) with special focus on investment for School improvement.

Personal Interests

I have been a member of the local Rotary Club for 20 years with special focus on the raising of funds for local charities which, on occasions, has involved the School.

Denise Eden-Green – Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee

Background & Experience

In my professional life, I have worked in both the public and private sectors. Early in my career, I set up and ran a small family business providing technical services to the creative industries, and later became a marketing manager in a technical services company. In the public sector, I worked at a senior level, on economic development projects, liaising with Kent businesses.

More recently, finding that there was little specialist mental health support for neurodivergent individuals, I trained as a counsellor. Nowadays, part of what I do focuses on counselling neurodivergent adults.

Connection to the School

I volunteered to become a governor at Grange Park School because I wanted to help provide the best possible opportunities for young autistic people to fulfil their potential through high quality education and support. I first developed my understanding of autism through personal experience, as I have relatives on the autism spectrum. I have also done a considerable amount of training to develop my understanding further.

Areas of Interest & Expertise

As a Grange Park Governor, I chair the teaching and learning committee, where we look in detail at how pupils are educated and how they progress as individuals. I am also the link governor for safeguarding, school wellbeing and I lead for governor training and development.

Personal Interests

I have an interest in sustainability. I drive an electric vehicle and I volunteer as a textile repairer at my local Repair Café. I am also a volunteer counsellor at a local residential rehabilitation centre for people who have misused drugs and alcohol.

Jon Regan

Background & Experience

Beginning in the Lloyd's of London insurance market as a broker, he later transitioned into IT leadership, serving as an IT Director and holding various management roles in sales and technical capacities within the computer industry. His expertise in financial services was further solidified through his role as Regional Director for EMEA at the Bank of New York, where he oversaw strategic banking operations across the region.

Beyond finance and technology, Jon has made significant contributions to the agricultural sector. As Chairman of Hugh Lowe Farms, Blaise Plants Limited, and Burlington Berries (Pty) Limited, he has played a pivotal role in shaping business strategy, operational efficiency, and financial management within the industry. Additionally, he serves as a Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Finance Committee at NIAB, as well as a Director at NIAB-EMR Limited, contributing to the advancement of agricultural research and innovation.

Connection to the School

Approximately a decade ago, Jon was invited to join the Board of Governors at Grange Park School in recognition of his extensive business experience and strong ties to the local community. His background in finance, IT, and strategic business management has been instrumental in supporting the school's governance and development.

Areas of Interest & Expertise

Jon brings a wealth of knowledge in finance, IT, and business management, offering strategic oversight and guidance to ensure the school operates effectively and sustainably. His expertise in financial planning, digital transformation, and corporate governance supports the school's long-term vision and helps drive continuous improvement in both educational and operational capacities.

Lady Anne-Marie Nelson OBE

Background and experience

I have wide experience in governance, non-executive positions mainly in the public sector, and chairmanship. I chaired for more than 20 years in the NHS both locally and Nationally, having chaired the body responsible for the three high secure psychiatric hospitals, Broadmoor, Hampton and Ashworth.

In education I chaired the board of the University of Greenwich and was a board member of a Further Education College in Kent until recently. I am presently chair of the Brogdale Group of companies which includes Craftworks College, an independent provider of training and education for post 16 non-school—attenders, and various activities for children and young adults across E Kent who have various disadvantages.

Connection to the school

I was asked to put my name forward to join the governing body by the then KCC elected member for the area as he thought I could make a useful contribution, given my experience in education and services for children with learning disabilities.

I have been part, as a governing board member and former chairman, of the continued improvement of the school

Areas of interest and expertise

As instanced above I have long been interested in education and other services for children and young people with various difficulties.

I have also been a non-executive director of a building society and have chaired the Kent Economic Forum, bringing together business leaders and the public sector for the economic benefit of Kent. I therefore have an interest in economic health, particularly in the area of Kent.

Personal interests

I enjoy choral singing, I love opera and I help prepare our garden for opening under the National Garden Scheme. I am chairman of the Friends of Fairseat Chapel in our village.

Nadia Higson

Nadia Higson has been a dedicated Governor at Grange Park School since November 2007, initially serving as a Parent Governor during her son Peter's time in Year 8. Following his graduation, she transitioned to a Foundation Governor role, allowing her to continue her invaluable contributions to the school community.

In her capacity as Deputy Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Nadia plays a pivotal role in scrutinising and enhancing the educational experiences of students. She holds specific responsibilities for monitoring the allocation and impact of the school's Sports/PE and Pupil Premium funding, ensuring these resources effectively support student development. Additionally, Nadia serves as the Careers Governor, guiding the school's efforts to prepare students for their future endeavours.

As a parent of neurodiverse children, Nadia possesses a profound understanding of the challenges families face throughout their child's educational journey. This personal experience fuels her commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where each student can thrive and reach their full potential. Nadia's dedication to supporting neurodivergent individuals extends beyond her governance role; she has pursued extensive training in this area and currently works as a counsellor, focusing part of her practice on neurodivergent adults.

Professionally, Nadia has a diverse background in both the public and private sectors. Early in her career, she established and managed a family business providing technical services to the creative industries. She later advanced to a marketing manager position within a technical services company. In the public sector, Nadia has worked at a senior level on economic development projects, collaborating with businesses across Kent.

Nadia's multifaceted experiences and unwavering dedication significantly contribute to the ongoing success and inclusive ethos of Grange Park School.

Robin Betts

Robin Betts has been a dedicated Co-Opted Governor at Grange Park School since his appointment on 1 September 2019, with his current term set to conclude on 8 July 2026.

In his role as a Governor, Robin actively contributes to the Full Governing Body and the Resources Committee, where he applies his extensive experience in local governance and community engagement. His position as a Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councillor provides him with valuable insights into local government operations, which he leverages to benefit the school's strategic planning and resource management.

Robin's commitment to the community is further demonstrated through his involvement in monitoring local initiatives, such as overseeing actions by both Kent County Council and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council regarding local developments.

Through his governance role at Grange Park School, Robin Betts dedication to enhancing educational outcomes and fostering a supportive environment for both students and staff.

Trevor Williams

I have been a Governor at Grange Park School for over 10 years, bringing a strong commitment to supporting the school's development and ensuring the best possible experience for both pupils and staff. My journey as a Governor began when I was appointed as a Parent Governor shortly after my son joined the school. Having previously served as a Governor at his primary school, I was already aware of the invaluable role governance plays in shaping the learning environment, enhancing educational outcomes, and enriching the overall school experience.

When my son moved on to college to continue his education, I transitioned to a Co-Opted Governor role, enabling me to continue contributing my expertise and experience to the school community. My professional background spans over 30 years in the IT and electrical industries, where I have developed a comprehensive understanding of technology, infrastructure, and operational efficiency. Additionally, my extensive experience in workplace health and safety has been instrumental in supporting the school's Health & Safety policies, ensuring compliance, and fostering a safe learning and working environment.

In recent years, my focus has expanded to include Cyber Security, an increasingly critical aspect of school operations. I work closely with the school leadership to implement strategies that protect students, staff, and the wider school community while online.

Kristie Horley - Parent Governor

Background & Experience

With a strong background in both the financial sector and the construction industry, I have developed valuable skills in strategic planning, budgeting, and operational efficiency. My experience in these sectors has given me a solid understanding of organisational management, risk assessment, and problem-solving—skills that are transferable to my role in school governance. Over the years, I have honed my ability to communicate effectively with diverse groups, including colleagues, clients, and stakeholders. My interpersonal skills allow me to build strong relationships, work collaboratively, and advocate for positive change within the school community.

Connection to the School

As a parent of a student at Grange Park, I have first-hand experience with the school's environment, values, and impact on young people's lives. This personal connection drives my commitment to supporting the school's mission and development. I am deeply aware of the increasing demand for special educational support and the challenges faced by families in accessing adequate resources. This understanding fuels my dedication to ensuring that every child, regardless of their needs, receives the appropriate support to thrive in their education. I have witnessed the profound impact Grange Park has on its students and their families, including my own. I am passionate about contributing to the school's continued success, ensuring it remains a nurturing and high-achieving institution that supports every child's growth and well-being. Recognising the positive transformation my son has experienced at Grange Park, I joined the governing body as a way to give back. My goal is to support the school in providing the same level of care and educational excellence to other families.

Areas of Interest & Expertise

I am particularly interested in promoting high attendance rates and ensuring that students remain engaged in their learning. I believe attendance is a key factor in academic success and overall well-being, and I am committed to working with the school to identify and address barriers to consistent attendance. I am passionate about fostering strong connections between the school and families to ensure that young people receive the best possible education. Effective communication and collaboration between educators and parents are essential in helping students fulfill their potential, and I aim to support initiatives that enhance this partnership.

Janine Morgan - Staff Governor

Background & Experience

After earning a First-Class BA (Hons) in PEPA from Canterbury Christ Church University, I began my career as a freelance PE specialist, working across nurseries, schools, and SEND settings. I joined Grange Park in October 2020, where I quickly obtained my Level 3 Forest School qualification. Soon after, I became part of the mathematics department, which ultimately led me to pursue Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Having successfully completed my Early Career Teacher (ECT) induction, I have been teaching ever since.

Connection to the School

I bring over 20 years of teaching and coaching experience to Grange Park and have had the privilege of witnessing its growth over the past four years. I strongly align with the school's values and am deeply committed to its continued development. Now, as a fully qualified teacher, my passion for supporting both the Grange Park team and its students has driven me to join the governing body, where I can contribute to its ongoing success.

Areas of Interest & Expertise

Throughout my career, I have been particularly passionate about special educational needs (SEN). As a teacher, my expertise extends to teaching and learning strategies as well as behaviour management.

Personal Interests

An active individual, I enjoy playing football and am a member of a ladies' Vets 7-a-side team. I also love swimming and spending time outdoors. In my free time, I prioritise being with family and friends.

Rachael Streatfeild

Professional Life

I have worked in Education for over 30 years. Early in my career, I taught History in secondary schools in both England and Wales before moving into primary education. I was Headteacher for 12 years at a primary school in West Kent until 2023, where effective inclusion and support for pupils with SEND in a mainstream setting was very much at the forefront. I am currently the Director of Education at SupaJam, a post-16 SEND provision which specialises in the creative music industries. Many of the young adults we support have previously had negative experiences of education. We work to re-engage them in learning through the power of music, to support them to gain vocational qualifications and promote future pathways to employment or higher education.

Connection to the School

I volunteered to become a governor at Grange Park School because I am passionate about supporting children and adults with special educational needs. I have two children (both now young adults) who have a diagnosis of autism. I have therefore navigated the difficult parental path of fighting for the right educational support for them both. My son was fortunate enough to attend Grange Park School from Year 8 to Year 13. He is now 19 and about to start a full time job. His time at Grange Park was simply transformational for him. Being a Governor is both a privilege and an opportunity to work with the whole school community to ensure that Grange Park continues to transform young people's lives.

Areas of Interest & Expertise

As a Grange Park Governor, I am a member of the teaching and learning committee, focusing on the quality of education. My background in education, and experience of being a Headteacher, means that I have a broad range of experience in a number of areas including SEND, safeguarding, financial management, HR and school improvement.

Personal Interests

I like to remain active outside of work and enjoy running, swimming, cycling and going for long walks with friends, family and my golden retriever - Dora! I am also keen to visit the theatre and art galleries as often as I can.