

Governors Biographies

Diamond Ashiagbor Foundation Governor

I have worked in higher education for over 20 years and am a professor of law at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, having previously held positions at University College London and SOAS, University of London. Qualified as a solicitor, my expertise is in employment and equality law, and human rights. I have a firm belief in the importance of education as a value in itself, in its contribution to social mobility, and in the central role of schools in the local community. I appreciate the history and special status of Camden School for Girls as a VA comprehensive, and share in the school's ethos and belief in comprehensive and women's education. Since being admissions tutor in the law faculty, University College London, I have worked on 'widening participation' (to encourage a more diverse student intake) and also 'mentored' two Year 10 pupils at a girls' comprehensive school in Hackney. I am currently one of the Trustees of the School, and one of the Vice-Chairs of the Governing Body, and also Chair of its Curriculum and Staffing Committee.

John Atmore Foundation Governor

My three children all started at CSG on the same day - my son in the sixth form and two daughters in the main school. It was brilliant to see how they all thrived, despite being quite different, and I resolved to become a Parent Governor to help the School continue to provide not only excellent education, but also to maintain its unique ethos. I work as a Strategic Planner in advertising and hope that some of the business skills I've learnt will aid the School as it navigates the next few years, particularly given the deep cuts being made in education funding.

Sebastian Camisuli Foundation Governor

As a dad I am trying really hard to be part of my daughter's education. Claudia joined CSG in 2008, my wife and I have found that secondary education a real rite of passage which brings with it a distinct independence of spirit in our children. Having fully embraced the culture of the main school she is now in the sixth form. Her development and progress so far has been very good and we hoping for a good result for her A levels.

However, like all parents, I worry about her academic progress, her social relations, the internet, and her sporting activities. I am keen to ensure she and her fellow pupils have a well-rounded education. As an Architect I am helping with the building stock and ensuring we are maximum the resources available to the school. I am also trying to improve the environmental performance and reduce the energy used by the school. I am very keen to maintain an active participation by the parent body in the school. I want to keep open lines of communication between the governing body and the parent community.

Tom Engel
Parent Governor

I recently joined BT as Director of External Communications, coming from a similar role at the education company, Pearson. I have held corporate communications leadership positions at the UK Departments for International Development and Work & Pensions, as well as the Natural History Museum.

My career began in the world of politics. After a spell as a parliamentary researcher, I worked in the South African parliament, where I established a scheme to train MPs and young parliamentary staff from groups previously excluded from such roles. Back in the UK, I served as Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Consulting roles, including a six year stint in Hong Kong, have seen me work for a wide range of clients, from pop groups to the Premier League, multinationals to Amnesty International.

I have two daughters currently at CSG.

Simon Flynn
Staff Governor

I have been teaching Science at Camden for nearly three years and originated *Sciku – The Wonder of Science in Haiku*, which included contributions from over 150 girls. I am currently completing an MA in Science Education that has included work on ‘closing the achievement gap’. Prior to teaching, I worked in Publishing for fifteen years and was MD of an independent publisher with a turnover of more than £2m and for whom I still act as a paid consultant. I guest tutor, and have been a second marker, on City University’s MA in Creative Writing Non-fiction.

Jane Hindle
Foundation Governor

My daughter spent seven very enriching years at Camden School for Girls and I am keen to ensure that, despite funding cuts, all students continue to benefit from the school's special culture and its excellence across and beyond the curriculum.

As a former chair of CASCA, I have experience in fundraising and in building links between parents and the school; and my current day job at LSE is in the fields of education strategy and policy. I hope that some of what I've learned in those contexts will be of use to the school in the coming years.

Bob House
Foundation Governor

I spent the first 25 years of my career in management consulting, and then moved into the charity sector where I was chief executive of a charity providing teacher training in philosophical thinking skills. I now work with a number of educational organisations and charities in the UK and abroad as a consultant and pro-bono advisor. I was, for 5 years, treasurer of HomeStart Camden, a charity which supports families with young children in the borough. I have lived in Kentish Town for nearly 30 years

My two daughters completed their entire secondary education at Camden School for Girls, and my son did his sixth form years here. All went on to excellent universities and are now in interesting jobs. They benefited enormously from their time at Camden. My wife was a former chair of CASCA. Consequently I have been involved with the school one way or another for many of the last 15 years.

I hope to use my business skills and more recent educational experience to help Camden School for Girls remain the outstanding school that it has been for so long, in what are undoubtedly challenging times for the education sector.

Maria Kambouri
Foundation Governor

Having completed my secondary education in Greece I decided to come to study at the University of London. After a few years travelling in Europe and the US I settled here and spent over two decades at the Institute of Education researching and teaching in higher education and as educational consultant in schools and further education colleges. My main interest is in how to support teachers to expand their skills to teach, particularly those learners who face difficulties in learning, through new ways of teaching and how technologies can be used in that context. I visit schools regularly to form partnerships for knowledge exchange.

I am also the mother of two young adults who were educated in the French state school system in London and in a north London sixth form independent school and who are now studying at university. I stayed close to their school life as class rep, as editor of the school magazine and as parent governor learning from the challenges each school faced.

When I heard from colleagues about a recent call to join this board of governors, I jumped at the opportunity to join and support Camden School for Girls. I look forward to sharing my experiences and get to know this school as I hope to bring a different perspective and encourage positive change by listening to staff and parents to best serve the students.

Greg Klerkx
Parent Governor

I am currently chair of CASCA – the Camden School for Girls' Community Association – and have been part of its management committee since my daughter first started here. My daughter has attended CSG since 2014 and has thrived under the school's care and guidance.

A significant part of my professional work involves training and development for teachers across the UK and in Europe, with a focus on strategies to help teachers embed creativity in their practice. Such work brings me close, on a daily basis, to the remarkable efforts of our state schools and the many challenges they face. As a governor, I will endeavour to apply my skill and experience to helping ensure that CSG can continue to be a beacon of excellence for future generations.

Lekha Klouda
Foundation Governor

I have spent much of my working life in the UK charitable sector primarily working in charity retailing and trading. I was the founder and CEO of the Charity Retail Association, retiring from full time employment in 2010. Earlier I spent 10 years in Africa where my husband worked for Oxfam in Tanzania and Malawi and I did voluntary work. I have also taught English to refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. I have been an active volunteer for over 25 years as charity trustee and school governor.

I attended Camden School for Girls when I first came to the UK from India in the 1960's going on to study at Oxford. Both my children attended the school and I was active in CASCA at that time. I have been a governor of the school for many years, am currently Chair of the Finance & Premises Committee and a trustee of the Foundation.

As someone who benefited enormously from attending the school – and whose children were also supported and encouraged during their time here, I am a passionate supporter of the school – hence my continuing involvement as governor and trustee.

Tom Low
Staff Governor

I have been a teacher here at Camden School for Girls for twenty years and before that for four years at a mixed school in Brighton. I have two school age children going into Year 8 and Year 11 in September. I am a member of the NUT. As a staff governor I endeavour to represent the views of all the staff on the governing body.

Angela Mason CBE
Local Authority Governor

I am Camden Councillor for Canteloves ward and a Cabinet Member for Children covering schools and children's services. Previously I was Executive Director of Stonewall and Director of the Women and Equality Unit in government. My daughter was a pupil at the school.

Kelly Pawlyn
Parent Governor

I am a freelance photographer and producer specialising in developing creative content for broadcast and publication. I studied at Warwick University, Central Saint Martins and completed a Masters in Fine Art Photography at the London College of Communication. As a member of the RSA with an active interest in the arts, I believe that education systems should equip young people with the power to create, the ability to generate original ideas and the confidence make them happen.

In the past I have been actively involved with CASCA (organiser of the annual Quiz Night, the Parents' Forum and the More@Moro Fundraising initiative) and have had the opportunity to collaborate with many of the talented teachers, parents and students that make this school very special. My daughter left Camden after GCSEs and is studying A'Levels at La Swap and my son is at Acland Burghley. I am aware of the mounting pressure on teachers and students through

Government cuts and changes to the curriculum - and the social pressure on teenagers - that can lead to mental health problems and stress. I am interested in discovering how schools in the borough can share and expand resources in a supportive and collaborative way. Teacher quality is one of the most important factors through which to improve student outcomes and I would like to join a team that is committed to developing everyone's creative, social and academic capabilities.

Janet Pope
Foundation Governor

I have been a governor at Camden School for Girls for 15 years, playing a role in the Finance and Premises Committee and more recently as vice chair and now Chair. I have lived in the area for 30+ years having studied at the LSE and stayed on! I have been a Camden Councillor and active locally on the Arlington House Board, Bloomsbury Health Authority and the governing body of Hawley Infants School. I work in the financial services industry.

I hope to harness financial skills, local knowledge and a long involvement with the school to ensure that we preserve all that is great about our school in the face of cuts in our funding and continue to deliver the kind of start in life which makes us so proud when we meet the pupils who have passed through our doors and whose lives have been enriched by their time at Camden.

Rebecca Priestley
Foundation Governor

Rebecca Priestley is an Executive People Director and Lawyer, who currently works at Lloyds Banking Group, managing Employee Relations, Policy, and Regulatory issues, including oversight of whistleblowing and conduct rules. Rebecca has previously worked as a solicitor and barrister, specialising in employment law, and is also an accredited mediator. Rebecca has 3 teenage children, and lives in North London.

Imogen Sharp
Parent Governor

As Vice-Chair of CASCA – the Camden School for Girls' Community Association – I've helped build a vibrant school-parent community and raise more than £50,000 for the school over the year. My daughter has been a pupil since 2014, and loves the school. In my professional life, I've been a charity chief executive and a senior civil servant in the Department of Health. I bring experience in strategic planning, policy development and delivery, national programme management, financial management, fundraising and communications to the school. I've also been a parent governor previously at other schools, and helped raise pupil achievement and teaching standards to gain outstanding Ofsted status, as well as representing the needs of students with special educational needs (SEND). As a CSG governor, I will endeavour to help the school remain a beacon of excellence in very challenging times, and improve opportunities for all the pupils.