

Governors Biographies

Samia Bano Foundation Governor

I am a Reader in Law at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), School of Law, University of London where I teach Family Law and Law, Multiculturalism and Rights. Before joining SOAS I taught at the University of Reading, School of Law where I was appointed Deputy Director of Research. I have extensive teaching experience working across various national and international universities. Prior to my work as an academic I have worked as a researcher in human rights and gender equality and as an activist and campaigner for organisations protecting minority ethnic women victims of domestic violence. My research expertise includes the practice of Muslim family law in the UK and Europe, multiculturalism, citizenship and human rights and issues concerning the rights of Muslim women and gender equality and I have published widely. I also have extensive experience of committee work and am an editorial board member of a number of academic journals.

Having been educated in the local state education system I understand and deeply value the importance that an excellent local state school can bring to the lives of young women especially those who may experience challenging backgrounds. As a foundation governor at Camden School for Girls I look forward to sharing my insights and my experiences of working with local communities on issues of diversity, minority rights and the law and hope also to bring my wealth of experience of working with marginalised communities and promoting access, inclusivity and widening participation into higher education.

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.

Flora Cornish Parent Governor

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Methodology at the London School of Economics & Political Science, where I teach research methods to students across the social sciences, and lead research on community responses to public health crises and disasters. I have worked in a wide range of UK Higher Education environments, including the University of Cambridge, Glasgow Caledonian University, and LSE, and work in collaboration with colleagues in universities and crisis-affected communities around the world. I am a passionate teacher and educational leader, and have led the development and improvement of our curriculum in qualitative research methods for many years. I have had numerous administrative roles in departmental leadership, planning, exam boards, recruitment, mentoring, etc. In short I have a rich understanding of the Higher Education environment and skills in educational leadership.

I am passionate about the role of schools as lynchpins in their communities, cultivating inclusion, valuing diversity, developing a sense of place, mutual respect, fondness and responsibility. I have been privileged to be a parent governor for 4 years at Eleanor Palmer Primary School, where I chaired the 'Pupils, Parents & Community' committee, during which time we progressed important topics such as de-colonising the curriculum, supporting parents of children with SEND, and normalising talk of mental health. My daughter is thriving at CSG, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to the school.

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.

Julia Gibson
Staff Governor

I've been an English Teacher for ten years, completing my training in the Midlands under the Teach First scheme, and joining the staff at Camden School for Girls in 2012. During my career I've taken on a range of roles: Literacy Coordinator in my previous school, Head of Year and interventions coordinator for the English department. During my first couple of years at CSG I completed a Masters in Education at the University of Warwick, researching how best to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers, which has informed and catalysed my interest in the issue. Prior to starting my career, I completed another Masters in American Literature at King's College London, and an undergraduate degree in English Literature at the University of Oxford.

Manuela Grayson
Foundation Governor

I attended Camden School from the age of 11 till 18 in the 1970s and I am delighted that my daughter is now in the sixth form here. I believe that where a person is educated absolutely shapes them for life and I am very honoured to have joined the Governor body to help support the school in its endeavours to instil its unique values in this and future generations of pupils.

I am a lawyer and currently work as a Tribunal Chair for a number of professional regulators; but for the most part my full time career has been as current affairs TV programme maker at the BBC.

I am also Chair of Trustees of Camden Community Law Centre and have been a Camden resident for decades.

I hope that my general legal knowledge and experience of regulation and governance in various organisations, will enable me to make a positive contribution to CSG's ability to make a difference, as has been its tradition, to its pupils' lives and future prospects, in whatever ways they are passionate about.

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 work at the Merchant Taylors' Company is in the fields of education and philanthropy. I hope that some of what I've learned in those contexts will be of use to the school in the coming years.

Sally Hodgkinson
Parent Governor

My daughter joined CSG in 2018 and I have been actively involved as a parent volunteer in the school's community association, CASCA, since then. My professional background is in fundraising and communications for charitable organisations in the US and UK. I am also a writer and, since March 2020, have focused primarily on freelance content management and copywriting for small businesses and social change organisations. This is my first school governor role, and I feel fortunate to be able to offer my time and energy to support the school in finding solutions that offer lasting improvements for both students and staff at CSG.

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.

Lekha Klouda
Foundation Governor

I spent most of my working life in the UK charitable sector. 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, was chair of the Finance & Premises Committee and am now chair of trustees 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.

Angela Mason CBE
Local Authority Governor

I am Camden Councillor for Cantelowes 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.

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.

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 raised 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.

Dick Tyler
Foundation Governor

I have two daughters who have completed their education and are now pursuing their careers. My mother, aunt, brother and sister-in-law are/were all teachers. I practiced as a solicitor for 30 years and performed a number of leadership roles in one of the large City law firms. I went to a state school myself and led the social mobility initiatives in my own law firm and in conjunction with other firms. I am now an executive coach and work one-to-one with business leaders and with their organisations on a range of strategy, leadership and governance projects.

I hope that the combination of my commitment to providing the best education and greatest opportunities to pupils of all backgrounds, the work I do with business leaders to help them become the best version of themselves and my experience of both the nuts and bolts of business and the importance of managing relationships with a variety of stakeholder groups equips me to make a meaningful contribution to the life and performance of CSG.