



The Abbey

The independent school for girls aged 3-18.

Governor Profiles



Mrs Elizabeth Harrison, Chair of Governors attended the Abbey School from 1960 to 1967, and her daughter followed her in 1987. She read Classics at Southampton University, and then took a post-graduate Diploma in Personnel Management in what was then Manchester Polytechnic. Liz's working life was mostly in the public sector, as a researcher, lecturer and consultant at the Civil Service College, as head of Personnel in the Cabinet Office, and as a policy adviser in the field of gender equality. In this role she was the UK lead on gender equality for the EU and at the United Nations. She studied for an MBA at London Business School. Liz has been a magistrate for the past thirty years, and is the present Chair of the Berkshire Bench. She sits on the Board of the Judicial College, the provider of all judicial training in England and Wales. She is an enthusiastic participant in two local choirs, and an equally enthusiastic audience member at a wide variety of arts events, and at most of Reading FC home matches.



Dr Carole Print, Deputy Chair of Council and Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee

has worked in finance roles in industry and as an educator for many years. She has recently fully retired from her role in management education at a business school which involved personal research, research supervision and teaching in the managerial application of finance with participants from many parts of the world, as well as coaching and management. She has been a governor of The Abbey School since 1993, and her daughter was a pupil from the age of 5 until leaving after the Upper VI. She continues some work in finance education and is also a governor at a local primary school.



Dr Ian Kemp, Chair of Governance Committee has recently retired having been a GP in Reading for 30 years with a special interest in gastroenterology and medical education. He continues to work with the Health Authority and other areas relating to medicine. He has been a governor of the Abbey School since 1992 and knows the school from different angles since his daughter was a pupil from the Junior School to the VI form, ending up as Head Girl, and his wife was Head of History. Both his children have followed him into medicine. He has been a life-long runner and is very interested in travel.



Mr Michael Emmanuel, Chair of Estates Committee has a daughter in the Senior School; his sister is a former pupil and his mother a former Governor. Educated locally at Crosfields and Shiplake College, he served his apprenticeship in the kitchens of Richard Shepherd's Langan's Brasserie, Paul Bocuse's three Michelin starred restaurant in Lyon, and Roger Verge's three Michelin starred Moulin de Mougins. His main role is as managing director of the French Horn, Sonning. He enjoys most sports having represented school and county and has ridden as an amateur jockey. Michael has been a Governor at The Abbey since 2008.



Mrs Susan Colebrook, Chair of Leadership in Girls' Education Committee and second Lead Governor for Child Protection has had a career in secondary school education, teaching Chemistry in the independent sector and holding a variety of positions. She was instrumental in developing the new build of 2 science departments including those at The Abbey School. In 1995 she moved to The Abbey as Director of Science and Head of Chemistry and in 2004 she was promoted to Assistant Head of the Senior School. Since retiring she has become treasurer of a local charity, does voluntary work for another and plays golf where she is also treasurer of the Ladies Section.

Her husband is a chartered engineer, as is her younger daughter, and her elder daughter is a biochemist



Mrs Juliet Anderson, Chair of Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee - is an Assistant Director at Health Education England, Thames Valley. Her Professional background is as a nurse, starting her journey in Reading. As her career progressed she specialised in the field of Critical care, working across the Thames Valley and further afield. Having progressed to a senior level Juliet decided to follow her passion for education and innovation, changing direction and becoming an academic. During her 14 years at Bucks New University she gained a master's degree in Education and several teaching qualifications. Publishing and presenting both in the UK and internationally, on topics including team working, leadership in higher education, quality enhancement, innovation in education and simulation. Before her move to Health Education England, Juliet was also Chairperson of the British Association of Critical Care nurses. Juliet has skills in workforce development, workforce transformation, the learner voice, innovation, programme management, governance, team working and interprofessional working. These skills are utilised in her role on the governing body and as chair of the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee. Juliet has a daughter currently attending the school.



Mrs Julie Cornell, Chair of The Abbey Community Committee, has a professional background in advertising, promotion, marketing and PR, specifically in the retail and shopping centre industry across the US. Now a dual citizen of the UK and the USA, she has worked closely with her American University's alumnae relations and development (fundraising) departments. She has been a governor since 2006. Both her daughters were pupils at The Abbey, one completing A-Levels, the other the International Baccalaureate.

The Revd Ann Templeman, Lead Governor for Human Resources- is currently Priest in charge of Theale and Englefield. She spent all her previous professional life in girls' independent schools several very like the Abbey: she was Head of Classics at North London Collegiate School, Deputy Head at Haberdashers' Aske's school for Girls, Elstree, and then Headmistress of Durham High School for Girls for 13 years till her retirement in 2011. (Durham High School is a Church of England foundation like the Abbey and she is particularly keen to affirm the importance of the moral and spiritual dimension of education alongside the academic and creative). She was an ISI inspector for most of her headship and a governor of Haileybury College. Her husband is also ordained and works alongside her in the parish; she has 3 grown up children (and 5 grandchildren)



Mr Simon Dimmick is a Partner of Blandy & Blandy LLP solicitors, and specialises in Planning law. He advises in relation to strategic planning, environmental, highways law, and has been practising in Reading for over twenty years. He became a governor of the Abbey School recently and previously has been a governor of his sons' primary school, and a parent governor of his sons' secondary school, Reading Blue Coat School, where his wife is Head of Biology. His first contact with the Abbey School was when his then future wife Sue (a young Dr Fifield) was in her first teaching post



Mrs Katie Lane, Lead Governor for Child Protection has been in education since 1967. She taught children from the age of four to sixteen in local authority and independent schools, mainstream and special schools in Germany, Scotland, Singapore and England, finally spending fourteen years as Headmistress of Highfield School in Maidenhead. Since retiring, she regularly inspects schools for the Independent Schools Inspectorate and works for a guardianship organisation that looks after many international students while they are at school in England. Her other responsibilities include being Child Protection Officer for the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. She became a governor of The Abbey School in 2009 which she has known for 30 years.

Mr Paramjit Uppal had two daughters who were educated at The Abbey. During his career in consulting and industry, Paramjit has helped many organisations make change happen arising from advances in technology, changing competitive landscapes and broader changes in society. He is currently the founder and CEO of ANDigital, an innovative professional services company accelerating the digital aspiration of its clients and people. This follows on from a successful start-up and sale of North Highland UK, a next generation management consulting business, which amongst many things was ranked in the top 5 of by The Sunday Times in the "best small companies to work for".



Lady Louise Bell, Lead Governor for Early Years was born and brought up in Glasgow. She worked for 15 years in the Clydesdale and Midland banks before leaving to have her first daughter. She was involved in a variety of community activities before working for over a decade as a teaching assistant in first schools in Northumberland and Bedfordshire. With her husband and children, Louise lived in Atlanta, Georgia. There, she volunteered in a local children's hospital. Now, she is involved as a volunteer in a number of local organisations including the University of Reading, Museum of English Rural Life and a primary school in Earley. She also works with the families of international students at the University.



Mr Nigel Hopes is a Chartered Accountant and spent most of his career with PwC where he was a Partner for 23 years. His principal focus was 'transaction services' advising companies in their M&A activities. During his career he spent 3 years working in Milan together with extensive international assignment roles. He retired from PwC in 2012 and was then the CFO at The Prince's Trust. In addition to overall responsibility for the finance area he led the move of 320 people to a new HQ in The City and the subsequent purchase of the freehold interest. He fully retired in early 2014.

He currently has a daughter at The Abbey and his elder daughter completed A levels at the school in 2014. He is an enthusiastic but high handicap golfer and enjoys family travel.



Miss Sanya Burgess is a Digital News Producer at Sky News. Previously, Sanya was the Digital News Editor at The Sunday Times. She was the youngest person to hold an editor role at the paper and her role saw her preside over the news sections on the website, smartphone and tablet. She has previously worked at Mail Online and The Royal Television Society. She holds a Newspaper Journalism Masters from City University and she read English Literature as an undergraduate at The University of Exeter.



Mr Jeremy Sheehan is a senior executive operating in the telecom and IT sector. He has over 30 years of commercial management and negotiation experience contracting large and complex 'Design, Build and Operate' fixed and mobile telecom networks. Having worked in both the public and private sectors he has led numerous culturally diverse and international teams. He has travelled extensively and worked with a variety of companies across Asia, North America and Europe. He is presently leading the international expansion of a multinational French construction company. Throughout his career, Jeremy has expressed a keen interest in the

development of young people, maintaining a strong belief in the role of extra-curricular activities. He is a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award holder, joined an expedition to Kenya and has mentored and sponsored young adults through a variety of internships and activities. One of his daughters was Head Girl at The Abbey in 2013.