



Croydon High School

for girls aged 3-18yrs

G D S T
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

GOVERNOR BIOGRAPHIES

ANTHONY SPIRO – CHAIR OF THE GOVERNORS

Mr Spiro is an Investor Relations and Financial Communications Consultant working principally with small quoted companies. He was previously Director of Corporate Affairs at Tomkins Plc and Group Company Secretary for the 600 Group Plc. He has been a Trustee of MID Mediation in Divorce since 2011, Justice of the Peace since 2007, Chairman and Trustee of the Weiner Library since 2002, as well as Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust since 2002. He was also Trustee and Treasurer of Otto Schiff Housing Association from 1992 until 1998.

Mr Spiro has been Chair of Governors at Croydon High School since September 2013.

DAVID GARRARD OBE – LOCAL GOVERNOR

Mr Garrard is a retired primary school Head who was Head of Smitham Primary School in Coulsdon for 26 years followed by spells as interim Head of three other schools. He is a Tutor or co-tutor for a range of training courses for the London Borough of Croydon. He still teaches part-time as a supply teacher at various Croydon Schools.

Mr Garrard was awarded the OBE for services to education in 2006 and has been a Governor at Croydon High School since 2007.

GALYA HOLDEN – LOCAL GOVERNOR

Mrs Holden is the Head of Digital at Newsquest Specialist Media, a publishing company, with responsibility for internet strategy, development and operations across the specialist media portfolio. She is a member of the Association of Online Publishers B2B and Product Development Committee. She holds a BA (Hons) in French and Drama, an MBA and is a qualified PRINCE practitioner.

Mrs Holden is a Croydon High School “old girl” and has been a Governor at the school since February 2011.

LESLEY LIPCZYNSKI - LOCAL GOVERNOR – DEPUTY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Lesley Lipczynski is the founder of WorkingWell Limited, a specialist health management consultancy whose focus is the proactive and cost-effective management of employee wellbeing and performance. A health management consultant with 30 years of corporate consulting experience, she has a detailed knowledge of the challenges inherent in balancing frequently conflicting roles and responsibilities with 21st Century work demands and individual coping capacity as well as the potential impacts a lack of balance can have on employee psychosocial health and performance. Prior to starting WorkingWell in 1997, Lesley held a number of leadership and management positions within the private healthcare industry where she gained operational and leadership experience in national account management, marketing and product development, corporate business consultancy and employee development.

Lesley is one of the country's leading experts in the applied management of workplace stress, using approaches that have been refined and developed through considerable consulting experience with a

wide variety of public and private sector organisations, both in the UK and overseas.

She is a regular speaker on the subjects of occupational stress, employee wellbeing and the relationship between employee mental health and business performance. She has also contributed to a number of TV and Radio programmes on the subject of employee wellbeing, including Channel 4's highly acclaimed documentary "Stressed Out". Lesley is co-author with the late Dr Stephen Williams of '*Dangerous Waters – Strategies for Improving Wellbeing at Work*' and '*Managing Workplace Stress – A Best Practice Blueprint*', both published by John Wiley and Sons.

Mrs Lipczynski's two daughters both attended Croydon High School where she has been a Governor since October 2016.

ELIZABETH WILSON – LOCAL GOVERNOR

Mrs Wilson retired as Head of Junior School at Sutton High School GDST in 2010 and has since stepped in as Acting Head of other GDST schools including Croydon High School and Sydenham High School. Following a degree in Education with Mathematics, she taught in the maintained sector for many years prior to joining the GDST. During this time, she took part in several working parties linked to curriculum development. Mrs Wilson remains passionate about education and the way in which young children learn.

Mrs Wilson has been a Governor at Croydon High School since 2012.

VIDUR VARMA – LOCAL GOVERNOR

Mr. Varma has over 24 years experience in consumer banking, wealth management, investments, insurance and payments, across private clients, affluent & mass affluent segments, and has worked in UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia.

He has worked with Citibank for 22 years, and his last role was as Director – Head of Wealth Management for Citibank UK and EMEA Citi International Personal Bank (offshore business).

As a global banker his expertise is in growing & transforming business, managing through economic crisis, driving financial performance, product management, product development, portfolio management, wealth management advisory, developing & launching value proposition, implementing technology & digital projects, and developing strategy for product & business launch.

He holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics) and M.B.A. (Finance) from University of Pune, India. He has also done Oxford Fintech Program from Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.

He is passionate about investments, fintech, making sculptures and Yoga. He recently took a sabbatical and trained to be a Yoga teacher.

Both his daughters have studied in CHS, the older one is now studying Medicine in University of Manchester.