



Croydon High School

for girls aged 3-18

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

GOVERNOR BIOGRAPHIES

Lesley Lipczynski – Chair of Governors

Mrs 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 over 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 1977, 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.

Mrs Lipczynski 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.

A regular speaker on the subjects of occupational stress, employee wellbeing and the relationship between employee mental health and business performance. Mrs Lipczynski 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". Mrs Lipczynski 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 and Chair of Governors since September 2020.

Caroline Gulliver – Deputy Chair of Governors

Mrs Gulliver is a Managing Director at US Investment Bank, Jefferies International, and has over 20 years experience in financial markets as both an Investment Banker and a European Equity Research Analyst. Caroline is passionate about education and from 2013 to 2018 was Chair of Governors at an ARK Primary Academy in London, whilst also being a Finance Link Governor. She also held the role of Chair of the Finance at All Saints Church, Fulham from 2013 to 2018.

Mrs Gulliver was appointed a Governor in May 2019 and Deputy Chair in September 2020; her daughter attends a GDST school.

Galya Holden – Local Governor

Galya 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 2011.

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 and mass affluent segments, and has worked in the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia.

He has worked with Citibank for over 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 and transforming business, managing through economic crisis, driving financial performance, product management, product development, portfolio management, wealth management advisory, developing and launching value proposition, implementing technology and digital projects, and developing strategy for product and business launch.

Mr Varma holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics) and MBS (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 and recently took a sabbatical and trained to be a Yoga teacher.

Both his daughters have studied at Croydon High School, the older studying Medicine at the University of Manchester.

Mr Varma has been a Governor since February 2018.

Rebecca Evans – Local Governor

Rebecca is the Senior Deputy Head at St John’s School Leatherhead. She is primarily responsible for staff professional development, admissions, bridging the gap between the pastoral and academic side of the school and inspection preparation. Her previous experience includes Head of Mathematics and resident tutor in a full boarding school. She is currently completing a Masters in Teacher Education at Oxford University.

Mrs Evans was appointed a Governor in January 2019.

Professor Richard Cook – Parent Governor

Professor Cook qualified BDSHons from the University of London Guy's Hospital Dental School in 1989, having earlier been educated at RGS Guildford. He then worked for three years in Junior Hospital Dental Surgeon posts, graduating as a Dental Faculty Fellow FDS (Gold Medal) from the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1993, before taking up his first Lecturer post within the then Guy's Hospital Dental School. He then transferred to University of Birmingham to complete his medical degree and after two years of junior medical jobs, completed his Membership in General Surgery from Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He returned to the Guy's Hospital Campus, now as an integral part of King's College London, to undertake a PhD as an MRC Clinician Scientist. He continued his Oral Medicine training to consultant level, with a subsequent NIHR Clinical training Fellowship. Richard's Oral Medicine Consultant Fellowship FDS(OM)RCSEd was awarded in 2008 and he took up his consultant appointment at Guy's Campus in 2009, when he also completed his PGCAP, and was awarded Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy as a consequence, soon afterwards.

From September 2019 Richard became Professor/Hon Consultant and Academic Lead for Oral Medicine at the Guy's campus of KCL's Dental Institute. His research interests encompass optics, opto-diagnostics, and applications of non-invasive imaging, to human diagnosis and disease / treatment monitoring, with direct applications to pre-malignant / malignant disease in particular.

His Daughter was born in 2006 and has very much become a Croydon Girl, joining the senior school in the Michaelmas term of 2018.

His academic and clinical work is paralleled by activities to promote STEMM subjects and to ensure equality of opportunity for all aspiring students in admissions and when studying in college. He chaired the successful 2018/19 Athena Swann Silver application for KCL and continues to support equality and diversity.

Professor Cook has been appointed Governor to start in January 2021