

# Governors' Biographies

## **Richard Brocksom**

Richard read Law at Pembroke College Cambridge. He joined the London office of Arthur Andersen that year, later qualifying as a Chartered Accountant. Richard became Finance Director of Merivale Moore in 1992 liaising with professional advisors, raising funding for trading and development projects and a public placing. He also directed strategic planning and various corporate acquisitions and disposals. In 1996 he became Finance Director and Company Secretary of ITG, an AIM listed company. From 2000 he pursued other opportunities in the internet arena with several internet retailing ventures. Richard was involved in all the financial, legal and operational issues in establishing these ventures and in the ongoing development of the underlying businesses.

He is Treasurer of a local cricket club – Blackheath CC (Surrey) recently being involved in raising £400,000 for their new pavilion. Richard is Chairman of Duke of Kent School's Finance Committee and was appointed Chairman of Governors in May 2013.

## **Penny McKenna**

Penny owns a local business and is qualified in Business management, Personnel management, NLP (Neuro linguistic programming) and Care management. Penny has over 25 years' experience running a care home for the elderly. (Care home for over 65s without nursing) dealing with regulators, all aspects of compliance, vulnerable people, families and staff. Penny also sits on the School's Health and Safety committee at Duke of Kent School which demands very similar commitments albeit at different ends of the age scale.

As a former parent she has personal experience of ethos of the School and has supported it since 1998/99!

## **Douglas Jack**

Douglas studied Architecture in Edinburgh. He subsequently established a company that built commercial developments in the investment and government sectors, and had dealings with both at director level. As a Governor with a property background he has been involved in positive changes at Duke of Kent, and he strongly supports the school ethos. Douglas is also a governor at Godalming Sixth Form College.

He likes travelling to remote parts of the world, enjoys music and trekking, and is a volunteer, skippering public trips on canal boats.

## **Stephen Dallyn**

Stephen completed a 3 year agricultural course at RAC in 1976. After a year teaching in the Philippines he started travelling, and never really stopped. He spent 15 years as Marketing Manager for an adventure travel company, then left to start Winetrails, a collection of gentle walks through vineyards. He now mostly organises bespoke wine and gourmet holidays, worldwide.

## **Alex Balls**

After leaving Reed's School in 1988, Alex studied Physical Education and Geography before starting his teaching career at Hove Park School in Sussex. Being Head of Outdoor Education enabled him to share his passion for the mountains whilst also playing rugby to a reasonable standard. After five years he took over as a head of department at Reed's and has held a range of co-curricular and pastoral leadership posts since. He is currently Deputy Head alongside being the School's safeguarding lead. As a passionate educationalist with considerable experience of school inspections, he still enjoys a range of sports and any opportunities to head to the hills.

**Jenny Cropper**

Jenny was educated at Roedean School. After this she joined the London Stock Exchange Press Office in London helping with all aspects of global press dissemination and event organising, transferring to Hong Kong for 4 years. There she travelled extensively throughout Asia with the Exchange and in particular assisted with the PR and Marketing surrounding the opening of the Taiwan stock exchange. Returning to London in 1992 Jenny then worked for the ISMA (International Securities Market Association) in press and publicity until starting a family. She has chaired the boys various school Parents' Associations over the last 10 years helping with several varied fund raising events. In addition Jenny has also worked for a children's charity – Action Medical Research running their regional event and fund raising operations.

**Graham Oliver**

Graham has lived in Surrey all his life apart from his early education in Kent and university in London. After studying at Cranbrook School and reading history at University College, London Graham qualified as a solicitor and worked for 40 years in Cranleigh, where he still practises as a Notary Public. He has a wide and somewhat eclectic range of interests including history, classic cars (in particular Alfa Romeos) and football. He holds a season ticket at Chelsea FC, enjoys foreign travel and has developed a special interest in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.