

TRUST MEMBERS and GOVERNORS

December 2019

Knowledge itself is Power



Ros Clayton - BA (Hons), MBA, PGCE (Distinction) - Trust Member

Ros was a governor from 2007 until September 2018. Ros is now a member of The Duston Education Trust. She has spent her whole career in education. Having started as a teacher of English in a grammar school, she later worked in secondary modern schools and in comprehensives. Ros was Principal of Comberton Village College in Cambridgeshire for 14 years, which during the 1990s left Local Authority control to become a Grant Maintained School, and which was recognised as an 'outstanding' school by Ofsted. Ros later took on the role of Director of Education and Children's Services in a failing Local Authority. Having led the local authority to a 'good Ofsted category', Ros then spent six years as an education consultant working mainly for the DfE as Chair of School Improvement Boards in challenging areas. She also spent time in the Treasury, working directly to 10 Downing Street on the Prime Minister's education priorities. Ros considers her priority as Member of the Trust, to be ensuring strong strategic development and goals for the Trust and the school, developing outstanding governance by attracting and training governors with high level skills, attracting and developing outstanding teachers and leaders, setting targets, monitoring progress, challenging and supporting all aspects of school improvement, and ensuring the highest quality in all areas of the work of the Trust, and the best education for all students in The Duston School.



Joe McCann - MBA, NPQH, Managing Director of IQM - Trust Member

Joe was a governor from 2009 until 2016. Joe is now a member of The Duston Education Trust. He is currently Managing Director of Inclusion Quality Mark (U.K) Ltd and works with schools across the U.K and further afield to recognise and improve inclusion in schools. He has a background in education both as a teacher and senior leader, having previously worked with schools in Special Measures as an education consultant leading a team of interim managers. He has delivered training in England, Ireland, Egypt, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Kuala Lumpur on the importance of an inclusive education. Joe attends regular meetings of Trust Members with the Principal and the SLT to ensure the school is constantly moving forward and delivering a high quality of education for all. He has a keen interest in ensuring every child at Duston receives the best possible inclusive education, and reviews targets and progress continually.



Glenn Daly - Trust Member, TDS Governor and Chair of GB, Member of the Resources and Audit Committee and Nominated Governor for Health & Safety.

Glenn has three daughters, two of whom currently attend The Duston School. He has lived in Duston for many years. Glenn is a Managing Director of a successful construction company and has over 23 years of experience in the construction industry and 5 years experience in Financial Services.

Glenn has been a Governor at The Duston School since 2009 and Chair of Governors at a feeder primary school for many years. He was originally elected as a parent governor and is now Chair of the Governing Body and one of the three founder Members of The Duston Education Trust.



Brenda Bignold JP - BA, MPhil, MBA, EdD- Trust Member

Brenda has spent her whole career in education as a teacher, Local Government officer, adviser, consultant and governor. She has worked in four Local Authorities, including as Corporate Director in Northamptonshire, and has undertaken national level roles as Education Director for the Building Schools for the Future programme, as adviser with the Local Government Association and in the private sector, as Partner and UK lead on Children's Services for Veredus, an executive recruitment company. In recent years she has worked in education overseas, including in Ethiopia, India and Kazakhstan, and is currently undertaking research on teacher training in developing countries. Brenda is also a JP and Board member for two small education charities.



Gabrielle Knowlton-Maile - BSC (Hons) - Trustee and TDS Parent Governor, Member of the Resources and Audit Committee

Gabrielle joined the Governing Body in 2015 taking up a position of parent governor. As a Duston resident and mother of two young children, Gabrielle has a keen interest in the local community and continuing success of both the primary and secondary phase at TDS. Her clinical background in healthcare, and medical sales and training experience, whilst not being directly linked to school education, does have transferable skills and the ambition to always achieve the best means that Gabrielle makes valuable contributions for the benefit of TDS pupils and staff.



Maria Deacon-Viney - BA (Hons), Fellow of CIPD - Trustee and TDS Parent Governor and Nominated Governor for Safeguarding

Maria joined TDS as a governor in December 2016. She has 2 daughters; the youngest currently attends The Duston School and the family have lived in Duston for 21 years. Maria is a Chartered Fellow of the CIPD and has spent the majority of her career in HR, primarily in the automotive industry. She also lectures at the University of Northampton and provides training and executive coaching for senior leadership teams. She is committed, motivated and enthusiastic and hopes that her previous experience and skills can assist in the role of Governor, helping The Duston School move forward positively and successfully into the next phase of development in providing an excellent education for the children of the community.



Sarb Gherra - BA (Hons) - Trustee and TDS Governor, Member of the Resources and Audit Committee and Nominated Governor for Financial Matters

Sarb joined TDS as a governor in 2018. He has over 20 years' experience in marketing and sales, having previously worked in professional and financial services organisations such as Herbert Smith Freehills, Grant Thornton and The London Stock Exchange Plc. He is currently the Director of Business Development for an international law firm based in London. Sarb has lived in Northampton for over 30 years with the majority of that time spent in Duston, having also attended what was at the time the Duston Upper School. He has two sons who attend TDS.



Monica Pruthi - BA (Hons), FCCA - Trustee and TDS Governor, Member of the Resources and Audit Committee

Monica is a Chartered Accountant with Fellowship status from the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants). She is a working mother with a background in both public and private sectors covering local multi site and International; working in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing and Mumbai. Monica has covered many leadership roles at senior level where accuracy, strategic planning, compliance and governance have been key.

Monica was appointed as a Governor in April 2019. As a local resident, Monica has a keen interest in the surrounding community which is displayed by the work she does for a local Beaver's group. Utilising her personal and professional experiences, she is committed to help direct and support the vision and growth of TDS, ensuring that the school offers all students the very best start in life to achieve the best they can, whilst at the same time maintaining a secure, safe, nurturing and happy environment.

Monica believes every student matters and every moment counts to ensure success in educating in a changing society and world.



Sam Strickland - Principal - BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Sam Strickland began his teaching career as a history teacher at Wootton Upper School in Bedfordshire having completed his PGCE in secondary history at the University of Cambridge. Sam's career quickly accelerated, becoming a Head of history and Classics. With an aptitude for Teaching and Learning and Assessment for Learning, Sam then moved on to become a Lead Professional in these fields and worked for the North Beds SCITT Consortium. Sam has also had educational resources and research published, most notably for History Today and Classroom Resources. He has also delivered courses nationally for Philip Allan. In 2008 Sam became an Assistant Head at Hitchin Girls' School in Hertfordshire where he had responsibility for the Sixth Form and led a Post 16 consortium arrangement within Hitchin. In 2011 Sam became Vice Principal at Brooke Weston Academy in Corby. He directly oversaw student care, the Sixth Form, the curriculum and served as the safeguarding lead for the entire Brooke Weston Trust. Whilst working for the Brooke Weston Trust Sam also served as the lead facilitator for NPQSL, working for Inspiring Leaders. In 2015 Sam was the Acting Associate Principal of Brooke Weston Academy and oversaw GCSE and A Level results which have received commendation from the DFE, Nick Gibb and the SSAT. In 2016 Sam was seconded to Corby Technical School to help guide the school in its first year of GCSE examination results and to establish a Sixth Form. He is now the Principal of The Duston School.



Anne Jones - Trustee and TDS Staff Governor

Anne lived in Surrey for 30 years before returning to Duston in 2008 with her husband. Her daughter attended TDS before leaving in 2013 to take up an apprenticeship with a company in the town.

Anne has worked at the school since September 2011, initially as a Teaching Assistant supporting SEN/D students in lessons. She is now a Technician in the Art, Design and Technology faculty.

Anne thrives on a full workload, problem solving and being creative, which in turn helps to support students and colleagues alike. She enjoys being part of a professional, enthusiastic and caring team. Anne has always felt the strong sense of 'community' and 'family' that pervades throughout the school.

Anne is committed to supporting the school in any way she can. She hopes that her varied life and professional experiences will help on the journey to move TDS forward to where it should be.



Lester Martin - Trustee and TDS Staff Governor

Lester was newly appointed as a Staff Governor in May 2019. He has worked at The Duston School (TDS) for the past 3 Years as their Designated Officer for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Until his move to Northamptonshire in February 2016, Lester was based in Berkshire, working for Berkshire County Council and Bracknell Forest Borough Council within Residential homes, Youth Clubs, Family Centres, the LEA and more recently in secondary schools.

Lester made the decision at an early age that he wanted to work within the field of Children and Families. He has for the past 30 years worked in a variety of settings and environments as a Residential Worker, Youth Worker, Family Worker, Education Welfare Officer, Senior Learning Mentor and, prior to his move to TDS, was employed in a secondary school within Bracknell Forest Council as their Inclusion and Learning Support Manager. In addition to being lead practitioner for Safeguarding and Student Wellbeing Lester directly oversaw the Inclusion unit and the Learning Support Centre, and set up a very successful Peer Mentoring programme.

Furthermore he also served as a Staff Governor at East Hampstead Park Community School for 4 years and was part of the team who had responsibility for Student Welfare and Wellbeing.

Finally, as a Staff Governor Lester is committed to working with our students to ensure they all have an opportunity to have their voices heard. He is an advocate of students and strives to make certain that a child centred approach is taken to promote the safety and wellbeing of all our students.



Emma Hopkins - Trustee and TDS Governor

Emma is the Director of Humanities at Corby Technical School and has been for two years. She has been a member of staff at CTS for four years. She has also worked in two other Brooke Weston Schools in her teaching career; Corby Business Academy and Brooke Weston Academy. Emma wanted to become a governor at Duston School as she would like the opportunity to be a part of an improving school's journey which is very different to the context of her own school. She hopes from her experiences in outstanding schools that she will be able to offer challenge in order to help the school progress further. Similarly, as a Director of Subject, she has acquired a variety of skills which she feels will be able to add value as a Governor. Firstly, her day to day experience of managing and analysing data to spot trends and areas of development and the ability to offer solutions and suggestions to key problems. Secondly, the main part of her role is to provide rigour and challenge to the department and herself in order to hold others accountable to ensure she is persistent so the students achieve the best they can. Outside of her role, her interest in the changing world of education and the implication on schooling and the next generations she hopes will bring a new sense of enthusiasm and energy to the role.



Paul Gillam - MA, PGCE - Trustee and TDS Governor

Paul has worked in secondary education for over 25 years as a Biology teacher and Head of Department. He studied Medicine at Trinity College, Oxford before making the transition to education and a PGCE at the University of Sheffield. His first teaching role was at The Perse School, Cambridge and after three years there he moved to Eton College where he spent 21 years. As well as his primary teaching role at Eton, Paul had additional responsibilities as a university advisor, pastoral tutor, football and rugby coach, Head of Cricket and a boarding housemaster. Two years ago he moved back to his home town of Northampton after many years away and he currently works at Kimbolton School as Head of Biology.

Paul is looking forward to using some of the experience he has gained to help the staff and students at The Duston School. He has a specific interest in pupil safeguarding and ensuring school cultures are positive and supporting to all pupils and staff alike.



Adam Crawte - BA (Hons), PGCE - Trustee and TDS Governor

Adam has lived in Duston for over five years and been a History teacher and senior leader in Northamptonshire and Warwickshire for over 15 years. Adam studied History and Politics at the University of Liverpool before becoming an executive search consultant in the City of London. He then studied for a PGCE in Secondary History at the University of Leeds, before settling in Northampton. In his time in education, Adam has worked at Magdalen College School in Brackley, Sponne School in Towcester, Bilton School in Rugby and DSLV in Daventry. At DSLV, Adam was Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning, and Curriculum. Adam currently works for the David Ross Education Trust as a subject adviser for History and he also carries out interim senior leadership roles across the eleven secondary schools in the Trust. Outside of teaching, Adam has contributed resources and articles to Teaching History magazine, history resource books and local record offices. As a local resident of Duston, Adam hopes to drive the academy forward to become one of the best schools in Northamptonshire and the East Midlands.



Georgina Stockley - BA (Hons), PGCE, MA - Trustee and TDS Governor

Georgina is a policy adviser at the Department for Exiting the EU. Georgina taught History, Geography and English in Coventry, before teaching Humanities at an innovative and high-performing London free school. She has a Masters in Education Policy and Leadership from the IOE, and (when a teacher) tutored Teach First trainees. Georgina is proud to be a Governor at the Duston School and convinced that knowledge-rich teaching can transform children's life chances. Interests, when not pontificating about politics, include learning the saxophone, reading history and windsurfing (badly).