SYNOPSIS OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MARK ALKERSTONE

Mark is Practice Director at AWW Architects and manages a busy practice covering national projects across 3 offices. He quotes that his key role within the practice is 'to ensure that our professional standards are maintained at all times, to ensure the welfare of the staff that we employ and to help support their growth and development'. Mark also works closely with key clients on large commercial projects. Mark promotes the importance of our built environment on our wellbeing and how working with communities to seek change and opportunity are key to successful development. He champions environmental change and has been instrumental in implementing processes within his practice that enable designs to evidence base embodied & operational carbon, ensuring the climate emergency is considered at all stages in the design process. Mark is a keen cyclist and has two sons, both have now left BGS, but attended the school from the age of 7 and fondly remembers many years supporting the boys hockey team at Failand.

MARTIN BOULTON

Dr Boulton is the High Master at The Manchester Grammar School, which was founded in 1515 with the express aim of educating 'the poor boys of Manchester in godliness and good learning'. Five hundred years later the School is considered to be one of the Country's leading academic schools and still has social mobility as one of its key driving principles. At present the School has around two hundred full fee bursary places, and has the aim eventually to become completely needs blind. Prior to taking up the post at MGS Dr Boulton was the Under Master at Westminster School in London. He trained initially as an engineer and prior to joining the teaching profession he worked in the mining industry and then Arthur Andersen.

IAN CHESHAM

Ian is a Director at Barclays Private Bank and works as the Lead Investment Advisor for the Education and Charities sector. Ian was part of the team that created the sustainable investment offering at Barclays and manages investments for clients in the education sector across the UK. He is a Chartered Fellow CSI and was in one of the first cohorts to undertake the CFA exam in ESG investing. Ian moved to Bristol in 2006 having studied Business Economics at Leeds University followed by a Masters in International Marketing. He has two boys at Bristol Grammar school and one that is now an OB, coaches at Old Bristolians rugby club and enjoys triathlons.

MARIA CRAYTON

Maria was appointed to the Governing Board in September 2015. She is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and was Head of Marketing for CBRE at The Mall at Cribbs Causeway from Sept 2006 – Oct 2017, she is now a freelance Strategic Marketing Consultant. She is also a Trustee of St George's, Bristol and St Peter's Hospice.
As a History of Art graduate she maintains an interest in Art and was a Trustee of the Royal West of England Academy from 2013-19. She was a BGS parent for 13 years, her daughter Maddie Burnell was Head of School 2014/15 and went on to read History of Art at Oxford University and Tasha who left in 2019 is now studying for a Masters at the London School of Economics.

HANNAH DRAKE

Hannah has recently pivoted her career and moved into Event Management at Cancer Research UK, leading fundraising events across the South West and Wales. Prior to this she has 14 years' professional experience as a Theatre Director, Dramaturg and Producer including co-founding the award-winning site-specific theatre company Insane Root, whose inventive productions have seen theatre come to life in caves, abandoned swimming pools and even inside the Suspension Bridge. Hannah attended BGS from 1997 to 2004 before completing a degree in Classics at the University of St Andrews, followed by a Masters in Directing at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She is passionate about improving mental health services in education, local heritage and widening accessibility to the arts.

MARY GAINSBOROUGH

Mary is a Consultant Paediatrician specialising in community paediatrics and neurodisability, including special educational needs. She provides oncall safeguarding work and has a strategic role in child mortality. She is an Educational Supervisor for Junior Doctors and regularly teaches medical students and is an appraiser for GMC revaludation. She takes part in some research such as a recent multicentre study of medicinal cannabis for spasticity. She also works in palliative care for Children's Hospice South West. Mary did A levels at an FE college in the north west before studying Medicine at Bristol University and worked as a Paediatrician in the Oxford region and then Vietnam before coming back to Bristol in 2006. She has 3 children who have already left BGS.

SHAUN HARVEY

Shaun is an experienced Board Member and has worked in professional services, retail, FMCG and logistics. He is currently the Chief Operating Officer for Mewburn Ellis LLP, a leading European firm of Intellectual Property specialists. Previously, he held CFO and General Management roles in some of the UK's leading companies. He is experienced in all aspects of strategic financial management, including mergers & acquisitions, and is an effective leader of change. His two children are very happy in the Senior School. As a geography graduate and French speaker, he loves France and its food, wine, and skiing.

PETER HUCKLE

Peter was a teacher at BGS for 39 years from 1980-2019. During that time he took on a series of leadership roles including Head of House, Head of Years 7 and 8, Director of Scholars and Deputy Head. For the last 8 years of his career he was Head of BGS Infants and Juniors, leading both schools through significant periods of growth. He is passionate about education and committed to the benefits of lifelong learning, completing his MEd at Bristol University in 1995. He is also passionate about sport, enjoying a long career officiating at over 400 domestic and European professional rugby union fixtures, including 3 Premiership Finals, 3 LV Cup Finals and a Heineken Cup Final. He was a reserve official at the 2015 World Cup and also at other international matches. He is currently coaching the elite Assistant Referees for the RFU and acting as a timekeeper nationally and internationally, including at 5 European Finals. Now retired, he is an active National Trust volunteer and, as a geographer, greatly enjoys travel and adventure. He has governance experience at 2 local schools. A proud Bristolian, Peter has strong family links with BGS over 3 generations. 2 of his children attended the school, one also working at BGS Infants for 4 years.

SUMITRA HUTCHISON

Sumita Hutchison's background is as a Commercial Employment Lawyer. She is now a Non-Executive Director on NHS Trust Boards championing environmental sustainability, health and well-being and inclusion. She also works for a global environmental organisation, Save Soil, leading the Europewide team on partnerships and PR. She is passionate about yoga, well-being and nature and is a well-being teacher. She has two daughters attending the school.

EMILY LEGGATE

Emily is a well qualified primary school teacher with both UK prep school and International school experience in Vietnam and Dubai. Currently she is working at Westonbirt Prep school, Glos where she is Deputy Head and a Year 6 Form Tutor. In addition to teaching, her responsibilities include pupil and community well being, safeguarding, and general standards of behaviour. A committed educationalist, Emily seeks to ensure that all pupils in the school are encouraged and motivated to reach their full potential. Recognising the importance of a broad-based curriculum, Emily seeks to promote a caring educational environment where essential values are respected and upheld.

JONATHAN MAY

Jonathan is a classically trained Computer Scientist (1st MA from King's College, Cambridge). As the CEO of Hubbub he has spent the last twelve years bringing digital best practice to charity fundraising, with a special focus on the education sector. Jonathan is an Associate at More Partnership focusing on digital fundraising, is a 2017 Winston Churchill Fellow, and is an advisor to the University of Cambridge alumni communications team. He is a keen amateur cook, plant collector and fossil hunter, and plays table football for Great Britain. He has close connections to the school, as an Old Bristolian (1995-20020) and former Head of School with two brothers who also went to BGS. Jonathan moved back to Bristol from London in 2020 and now lives in Southville with his wife Kiran and two children, Sitara and Jupiter.

ANDREW MOORE

Andrew has just retired after nearly 30 years with the bp group -his last role was as Finance Director for the Castrol Division of BP looking after Europe, Africa, Turkey and the Middle East as well as a number of global responsibilities relating to working capital and cash flow. Andrew graduated from Bristol University in 1986 and underwent training in Bristol to become a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse. He previously worked for HSBC and Whitbread and worked in Singapore for BP between 2011-2016. As Finance Director, he was responsible for over 100 countries. He has run global transformation programmes over the last 25 years. He was a director of numerous companies both in the UK and overseas and is highly supportive of technology start-ups. Outside of work Andrew is a keen golfer with a descending handicap and swims in charity events for North Bristol NHS Trust.

FALGUNI NATHWANI

Falguni completed her undergraduate degree and academic PhD at Cambridge University. She qualified from the University of Exeter as a Clinical Psychologist in 2004 and has over 20 years experience working in NHS mental health services. She currently works clinically in an outpatient Eating Disorders Service. She works directly with patients/families and also has extensive experience of supervising, supporting and managing NHS staff. Alongside her clinical role, Falguni is a Senior Tutor for the South Wales NHS Clinical Psychology Training Programme, based at Cardiff University, where she has teaching responsibilities, leads on recruitment and selection of trainees and co-ordinates the first-year curriculum. She is active in mental health research supervising trainee clinical psychologists to complete their doctoral theses. She is a keen gardener and has two daughters, one of whom is in the sixth form at BGS.

CHRIS O'MAHONY

Chris is a Chartered Surveyor by qualification. He has been a Director at Savills Plc for 20 yrs and heads up the South West Retail & Leisure Team. He specialises in providing strategic advice to a range of landlord and occupiers clients. These clients range from large Plc institutions to private individuals. He is also involved in various mixed use retail and leisure schemes and High Street initiatives throughout the UK. He works closely with many large developers providing strategic advice on future developments. Chris has two children, one of which is currently in Yr9 at BGS, and he spends much of his spare time ferrying to and from various sporting fixtures.

LUCINDA PARR

Lucinda Parr is the Chief Operating Officer, Registrar and University Secretary at the University of Bristol with the responsibility for the provision of a wide breadth of Professional services at the University of Bristol including all academic and research facing services, Campus, IT, HR, Strategic Marketing and Communications, Governance, Risk and Compliance. She graduated from Goldsmiths College with a BMus in 1999, then worked there as an Admissions Officer while studying for her MMus. Previous roles held include the Director of Executive and Governance Services, at Goldsmiths, University of London and University Secretary and Registrar and Chief Compliance Officer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is a member of various sector organisations and of Advance HE's Governor's Advisory Forum. She is also a member of Children and Young Peoples board, the Cathedral Advisory Trust and chairs a cross city working group addressing Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse.

KATE REDSHAW

As an Old Bristolian herself and with 3 children who are also now OBs, it is safe to say that Kate has a long-standing relationship with BGS. Since moving back to Bristol, Kate has worked as an employment lawyer at law firm Burges Salmon for a number of years and more recently has enjoyed working with its senior management team on standalone strategic projects. As well as serving on the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Group, Kate also sits on the steering group of BWB - a networking and professional development group for women working in large businesses and corporates in Bristol.

KATY RICKS

Dr Katy Ricks was Head of Sevenoaks School, one of the largest and most academically successful International Baccalaureate schools, from 2002-2019, and then Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham and Headmaster to the Foundation of the Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham from 2019-2024. She has taught English Literature for 39 years: at St Paul's Girls' School, Latymer Upper School, St Edward's School, Oxford (where she was Head of English), and at Highgate School (where she was Academic Deputy). She continued to teach IB English during both headships. She has experience of master planning, fundraising, academic innovation and state school partnership. Katy was a pupil at Camden School for Girls, and read English at Balliol College, Oxford (as one of the first cohort of women undergraduates), where she later completed her DPhil. She lives in Kingsdown with her husband Professor David Ricks (OB 1976).

DAVID SHELTON

David was appointed to the Board in 2014. Prior to retirement he ran his own consulting and training business following a career with Clerical Medical, where he was involved in market research, marketing management and distributor development. Prior to Clerical Medical David worked at the Bristol Business School at the University of the West of England teaching economics, business policy and marketing. David graduated from University College, Cardiff and holds an MSc (Econ) and is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. David is married and has a daughter and son, Andrew, who attended BGS 1996 - 2003. David's external interests include long distance trekking and swimming and he also volunteers with Young Lives vs Cancer.

CATHERINE SHEPHERD

Catherine is an employment lawyer at Osborne Clarke, having joined the firm as a solicitor in 2002 when she moved to Bristol. Catherine works closely with the partners and senior lawyers, to keep them abreast of employment law developments and the legal and practical impact of these on workforces, including emerging diversity issues and the use of AI. Catherine also delivers bespoke training and legal updates to key clients, with a focus on identifying the matters that are of particular importance to them. Catherine is involved in pro bono initiatives, including providing support to "Stamma", an organisation helping individuals who stammer navigate the challenges they can face in the workplace. Catherine has three children, two having attended Bristol Grammar School, with Charlie still being in Year 12. In her free time she volunteers at St Peter's Hospice on their in-patient unit supporting staff in administrative duties, welcoming visitors and she also takes her Golden Retriever as a therapy dog to Southmead hospital. She enjoys running, rowing with Clevedon Pilot Gig Club and supporting Bristol City football club.

JOHN SISMAN

John is a Bristolian by birth and an Old Bristolian, having attended BGS 1980-87 and was President of the Old Bristolians Society in 2019. His father, wife and 2 children also attended the school. In his professional career John is a Chartered Surveyor with over 30 years' experience specialising in Commercial Property Investment and Development and was President of the Bristol Property Agents Association in 2017. He was Head of Commercial at Knight Frank until 2013 when he set up his own consultancy business, Sisman Property Consultants. John is married, enjoys sailing and his main passion (outside of his family) rugby. He is a qualified RFU coach and an Honorary Member of Old Bristolians Rugby Club. He is Learned Clerk of the Ancient Society of St Stephens Ringers one of Bristol's oldest charities, holds a number of other Trustee appointments and is a local committee member of the RNLI.

SALLY SPEAKE

Sally is Director of Strategy for a FTSE 100 Financial Services Company. Her experience spans a broad range of financial services and technology businesses, with expertise in leading the creation and subsequent implementation of strategy and large-scale transformation. She is passionate about making financial planning and investing accessible for all, and part of her work focuses on financial education to historically underserved segments. Originally from Canada, she has lived and worked in London, Singapore, Shanghai, Vancouver, and now sunny Bristol! She loves travelling, the outdoors and being active, and has a daughter in the junior school at BGS.

MARK WILSON (CHAIR)

Mark is a Chartered Surveyor specialising in the retail asset management and investment, with a degree in Land Management from DeMontford University. He is a Director of InVia Asset Management, PMM Estates and Non-Executive Director of BBRC Homes. Two of his children attended Bristol Grammar School, Matthew having graduated from Nottingham University in Politics and Economics; and Emma who works within the NHS having recently completed a PhD in Clinical Psychology. His youngest son, Freddie is currently at Bristol Grammar School. Mark coaches junior football and retains a keen interest in sport, but now more as a spectator than a participant.