

Loughborough Schools Foundation Governor Biographies

ADMIRAL SIR TREVOR SOAR, KCB, OBE, DEng (Hon) FCMI CHAIR OF LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD

Sir Trevor left the Royal Navy in March 2012 after a distinguished career of some 37 years achieving the highest rank in the Service.

He is now Director of his own consulting company and has a portfolio second career which includes being Chairman of the 400-year-old Historic Dockyard at Chatham, Chairman of the maritime company Clearwater Tracking, a founding Director of the True Leadership Company and he also advises a variety of industries and sectors on business strategy and leadership.

Sir Trevor joined the Royal Navy in 1975, after attending Loughborough Grammar School and has served both in submarines and surface ships, commanding in every rank from Lieutenant to Commodore. His last position in the Royal Navy was as the Commander-in-Chief, effectively the CEO of the Royal Navy in which he had full command of all Fleet units, the Fleet Air Arm, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Royal Marines. He was also the NATO Commander at Northwood responsible for all NATO Maritime Operations including the counter-piracy effort in the Indian Ocean – Operation OCEAN SHIELD.

Sir Trevor now lives near Ashbourne in Derbyshire. He is the President of the Leaders Club that promotes leadership development and debate for leaders across all sectors. He is also a Younger Brother of Trinity House, a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, President of the Sea Cadet Corps TS WIZARD in London and TS MODWENA in Burton on Trent. As a Freeman of the City of London he is a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Light mongers and Admiral of the City Livery Yacht Club. A keen supporter of Leicester Tigers and Navy Rugby he was, until leaving the Service, the President of the RN Rugby Football Union. He maintains his interest in rugby as an Independent Board member for the regional RFU in the Midlands.



MR TONY JONES, BA FCA – VICE CHAIR OF LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD

Tony is an experienced business advisor and has held senior Board positions in a number of UK businesses. Tony is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a graduate of the University of Nottingham.

Tony commenced his career at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in the East Midlands in 1980 after which he became Finance Director with in the Sears plc retail conglomerate. He then served as Group Finance and Operations Director of Camelot Group plc. Subsequently Tony has worked in a number of private equity owned businesses including Wyevale Garden Centres and also set up his own independent business consulting firm. Tony has acted as Chairman and non-executive director of a number of retail businesses, adviser to a global investment firm and consultant to the European Lotteries Association

Currently Tony is consultant to a leading merger broker and non-executive adviser to a retail technology business. He chairs the Finance Audit and Risk Committee at the Schools Foundation.

An East Midlands man, Tony still lives locally with his wife and is parent of two former LGS boys. He is a former Chairman of Loughborough Round Table, a passionate Leicester Tigers fan, an active cyclist and a keen but infrequent golfer.



MRS ELIZABETH CRITCHLEY, MA (Oxon) – CHAIR OF LOUGHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Elizabeth has a MA in Literae Humaniores (Classics) from the University of Oxford. After university, she qualified and was in practice as a solicitor in central London. Elizabeth recently retired, after twenty two years as a senior lecturer in Law at Nottingham Trent University, where she specialised in Trusts Law.

In addition to teaching, Elizabeth was tutor for the Final Year with responsibility for the oversight of pastoral and disciplinary matters and academic progression of all final year students on the Law School's undergraduate programmes. She also taught on the post graduate professional courses in law and was a programme leader for the Graduate Diploma in Law. Originally from Northumberland, Elizabeth lives in Leicestershire with her husband, Stephen. Her two sons, Thomas and William, who live and work in London, are former pupils of Loughborough Grammar School. She has been a governor of a local primary school and a churchwarden.



MRS ANNA MURPHY – CHAIR OF LOUGHBOROUGH AMHERST SCHOOL BOARD

For the last 18 years Anna has worked at the House of Lords where she is currently Head of the centre which offers expert advice to Members and others on House procedure (the formal and informal rules of its everyday activities).

Anna is an old girl of Our Lady's Convent School and after leaving there in 1996 she went to study at Durham University (University College).

Anna loves sport; she plays netball and also spends a large amount of time alongside her husband watching their three children play sport. She is also an active parishioner at St Mary's Catholic Church in Loughborough which is where Anna's family have worshipped for five generations.



MRS GILL RICHARDS, BA Hons, M.Ed. Hon.Ed.D – CHAIR OF FAIRFIELD PREP SCHOOL BOARD

An Old Girl of Loughborough High School Gill Richards has a 2.1 Honours degree in History from the University of Wales, a Masters degree in Education and an Honorary Doctorate, "in recognition of her outstanding contribution to education". Having spent the first twenty five years of her career working in the State Sector in boys', mixed and girls' schools Gill moved as Deputy and then Head of The Belvedere School GDST in Liverpool. This school became the first Open Access school in the country, supported by the GDST and the Sutton Trust. Girls were tested using American style SAT tests to identify potential. Places were offered strictly in merit order and means tested support from the two charities paid the fees where required. A second Headship followed at Bolton School where Gill was responsible for the Nursery, Infant School, Junior and Senior girls, some 1350 pupils.

Gill is married with two children and is a busy grandmother as her son-in-law and granddaughter live in America. She enjoys fly fishing, reading, cooking and following Eventing, a sport in which her daughter competed at a high level before her death in a riding accident last year. Her son, his wife and grandson live nearby.



MRS PHILLIPPA O'NEILL, MA (Cantab) – CHAIR OF LOUGHBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOARD

Phillippa was educated at Fairfield Preparatory School and Loughborough High School, following which she read History at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. She then attended the College of Law, London, and then completed a training contract with City Firm Ashurst LLP. Following qualification, Phillippa joined the Commercial Litigation team at Ashurst where she worked for 5 years before moving back up to Leicestershire with her young family.

Phillippa is a partner of Knights plc and the Team Leader for Dispute Resolution. Phillippa handles a broad caseload (including breach of contract and warranty claims, partnership and shareholder disputes and professional negligence claims) and has extensive experience of litigating in the High and County Courts and well as in resolving disputes via negotiation and mediation. She also has a keen interest in the recruitment and mentoring of trainee solicitors.

Whilst at University and in London, Phillippa rowed at elite level, racing in the Women's Head of the River, the National Championships and at Henley as well as competing overseas, including in the Head of the Charles where her eight was the fastest international crew in the club eights category. She was also selected to row in a pair at the Women's Inter-Regionals Regatta where she won a bronze medal and was part of the victorious Thames Region squad.

Phillippa is now a qualified hockey umpire and coach and manages a large and successful Girls Squad at Beeston Hockey Club where she is also Welfare Officer. She is also the manager of the U15 and U17 East Midlands Girls' Performance Centre Hockey Squads. Phillippa is married to Richard, a Consultant Vascular Interventional Radiologist at QMC/City Hospitals, Nottingham and they have a son currently attending the Grammar School



PAUL SNELLING BSc (Hons), MBA, C.Eng, MRAeS

Paul grew up in Brighton and was educated at the Brighton Technical School. At 16 he joined British Airways as an Engineering Apprentice and qualified as a Licensed Aircraft Engineer. He went on to obtain a degree in Air Transport Engineering at City University, London and a Masters in Business Administration from the Cass Business School. He is a Chartered Engineer. Whilst working at BA, Paul, held various roles within the Engineering Department but his final appointment was as Flight Operations Business Development Manager.

In 1996, he joined Rolls-Royce in Derby as Business Strategy Manager in the Civil Aerospace Marketing department, after which he held senior strategic roles in Purchasing, Business Development and Engineering. Paul retired from Rolls-Royce in 2016.

Paul's interests include watching sport, in particular, football, cricket and hockey, travel and gardening. He is married to Kathleen, who taught Biology at the Grammar School before becoming a member of the Senior Management Team at the High School. They live near Ashby de la Zouch and have 4 grown up children, who all attended the Grammar School or High School.



PROFESSOR ROBERT ALLISON, BA PhD

Professor Bob Allison has been Vice-Chancellor and President of Loughborough University since 2012. The Vice-Chancellor is the principal academic and administrative officer of the University. He leads an institution of over 20,000 people and a £300 million turnover on two campuses: Loughborough University in the East Midlands and Loughborough University London on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Previously he was Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Sussex University. Earlier in his career Bob held a chair in Geography at Durham University, where he was also a Head of Department and Dean.

Professor Allison has contributed to a number of organisations including the Natural Environment Research Council, Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and Universities UK. Bob is currently President of UNITECH International, a network of leading European universities and multinational companies with a particular focus on technology & engineering. He is also on the Board of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership. Professor Allison has been a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society since 1990, serving on many committees and being elected Honorary Secretary from 1997 to 2000. He has also been Chair of the British Society for Geomorphology.

Bob has published extensively on slopes and slope processes and other aspects of geomorphology. He is the recipient of a number of honours and awards for his research and teaching including the Cuthbert Peek Award from the Royal Geographical Society, Charles Lyell Award from the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Jan De Ploey Prize from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Locally Bob is Vice-President of Leicestershire Scouts, President of Charnwood Athletics and an Honorary Canon Professor of Leicester Cathedral.



PROFESSOR ALAN DODSON, BSc (Hons), PhD, DSc

Alan was educated at Buckhurst Hill Grammar School, Essex, following which he read Civil Engineering at The University of Nottingham. He continued his studies there gaining a PhD in Engineering Surveying, and after a Research Fellowship joined the academic staff as a Lecturer in Civil Engineering. A long academic career saw him promoted to Head of the School of Civil Engineering, Dean of Engineering and finally Pro-Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for Estates, Infrastructure, Environment and Information Services.

During his academic career, as well as teaching a range of undergraduate and postgraduate civil engineering related topics, Alan's research interest was in the field of Engineering Surveying and Geodesy, with a particular interest in the engineering and environmental applications of satellite positioning systems.

Professionally Alan, until his retirement, was a Fellow of The Institution of Civil Engineers, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, The Royal Institution of Navigation and the Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors. He was a Fellow of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), was for many years the UK Delegate to the IAG and served for 4 years on its Executive. He also served on the Council of The Royal Astronomical Society and for a while as its Vice President (Geophysics). He was awarded a Higher Doctorate (DSc) by the University of Nottingham for his lifetime research work in Engineering Geodesy.

Whilst at School and University Alan was a keen cricket and badminton player, and Bridge player. He still holds the University's staff cricket team bowling record of 9-26 against the University of Sheffield staff team!

Alan is married to Heather, who also worked for many years at The University of Nottingham in Information Services, and they have a son, Edward, who attended Loughborough Grammar School and is currently studying for a DPhil at Oxford University.



PROFESSOR JOHN FEATHER, MA, PhD, FRSA

John Feather has been a Governor of LES for 15 years. He was educated at Heath Grammar School, Halifax, and The Queen's College Oxford where he read English. After working in a publishing business and in librarianship, he came to Loughborough University in 1977, becoming a Professor in 1987. He was subsequently Dean of the Faculty, Dean of the Graduate School and Pro-Vice Chancellor. He is now an Emeritus Professor.

John became deeply involved in international work for the University (especially in student recruitment from south-east Asia and China), for the British Council (in Pakistan, southern (now South) Sudan, Thailand, Malaysia and China), and for UNESCO. He has been involved with many organisations including the Arts and Humanities Research Council, English Heritage, DCMS, the Arts Council, the British Council and the British Library.

John has lived in Quorn for more than 30 years. He is a dedicated and vocal (some have said too vocal!) supporter of Leicester Tigers. His cultural interests include contemporary fiction, music, theatre and opera, interests which he shares with Sarah, his wife. He is a cook whose food is alleged to be edible, a lover of good red wine and, perhaps not surprisingly in those circumstances, a Francophile.



Mr Andrew Harris, MA

Andrew Harris is Executive Director of Campaigns at Aston University and sits on the university's management board. Andrew is responsible for leading the Development and Alumni Relations Office. The Office engages and involves alumni/friends, their businesses and networks in the work of Aston and delivers income to help the University deliver institutional priorities.

Andrew has 22 years' experience working with charities and good causes such as The Royal British Legion, Children with Leukaemia, CLIC, Victim Support and Oxford University. The last 17 years have been spent in the education sector.

Prior to taking the role at Aston, Andrew spent 3 years as Director of Development at Cheltenham College. Andrew helped the College deliver the first 2 phases of a Major Capital Campaign that included a substantial refurbishment to the College's main building and the construction of a new boarding house. Prior to College, Andrew spent 8 years at the University of Birmingham as Head of Major Gifts and with a very able team took a £60m Campaign from feasibility study through to completion.

Outside of work Andrew has two children, Jacob and Martha; is passionate about all sport (particularly those that involve a racquet) and loves reading and politics.



MR ROGER HARRISON, MA (Cantab) Dip Arch RIBA

Roger was educated at Loughborough Grammar School, following which he read Architecture at Jesus College, Cambridge. He then went on to complete his architectural education in Sheffield, after years out working in London and Kuala Lumpur. Following qualification Roger worked for Brimelow McSweeney Architects in central London for 5 years on largely commercial schemes, before moving back to the East Midlands to work for a residential property developer. In 2007 Roger set up his own practice in Nottingham where he continues to handle a variety of commercial and residential projects and has built up extensive experience of working on Listed Buildings.

Roger is the Nominated Safeguarding Governor for the Foundation.

In addition to a passion for historic buildings, Roger enjoys participating in sport having recently taken up trail running he also plays tennis for two teams and helps to run his local tennis club.

Roger is single and lives in Nottingham.



MR KEVIN HIGGINSON, BA FCA

Kevin is a highly experienced company director having held senior positions within a number of listed and private companies over many years. He

is a Chartered Accountant, Member of the Institute for Turnaround and graduate of Nottingham University.

Having qualified with Price Waterhouse in the 1980's and progressed with Spicer and Pegler, he then held the positions of Group Finance Director or Group Chief Executive with Hazlewood Foods plc, The BSS Group plc, Low & Bonar plc, and The AEA Technology Group plc. He has also acted as an independent executive in restructuring situations and is currently Group CEO of DK Group Investments Limited based in Rugby.

Kevin has also acted as a Governor, including a number of years as Chairman, at two maintained schools.

Originally from Nottinghamshire and now living in Staffordshire, Kevin is married and has 4 grown up children (including a son who attended Loughborough Grammar School). Interests include all sport but especially Rugby Union, clay pigeon shooting (badly!) walking and wine.



SISTER CELINE LEYDON

After 3 years as a pupil at the Our Lady’s Convent School I joined the Sisters of Providence Order. I trained as a Montessori Teacher at Belsize Park in London. In 1969 I joined the staff at Our Lady’s Convent School. I spent 37 years at the School and 20 of those as Head of the Primary Department. Now retired, I am at present engaged as Administrator at Rosmini House. As well as teaching I spent 17 years in charge of the Boarding Department at Our Lady’s Convent School.

I continue to have the real interests of the School as a whole at heart and wish to work for its overall good. Interests include playing the piano and sewing.



MRS ROWENA LIMB, OBE, MA (Cantab)

Rowena is a Senior Civil Servant, currently the Area Director for Government’s Cities and Local Growth Unit in the East Midlands & South East Midlands.

Rowena joined the Civil Service from University, beginning in an inner city benefit office and then holding various posts with Department for Education’s forerunners both regionally and nationally including working on Jobseekers Allowance legislation, developing a National Qualification for Head Teachers and regionalisation of the European Social Fund. She has also spent some time on secondment to the Royal National Institute for the Blind’s vocational college.

She was brought up initially in the Netherlands but returned to the UK for secondary education at LHS, before reading Geography at Cambridge; where she was chair of Student Community Action – the university’s volunteering service. A keen hockey player at school and university she now supports her daughter (ex LHS) and son (LGS) in their hockey ambitions.



MRS LOUISE WEBB

Louise is a commercially astute and highly collaborative business leader with a real passion for nurturing and developing talent and improving the success of organisations through its people. A graduate of Bath University where she gained a BSc (Hons) in Economics, Louise enjoyed a long and successful international career at Avon Products Plc. During her time at Avon she held a number of senior leadership positions in Human Resources, most latterly as Vice President HR for Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Subsequently she was founding partner of a boutique strategic HR consultancy before relocating back to Leicestershire with her young family.

Louise is married to husband Richard and has 2 children Ethan and Elise who attend Fairfield Prep school. Her favourite way to enjoy some ‘me time’ is to catch up with friends near and far, do some Yoga, or walk around Bradgate park. Having recently moved house, Louise’s next challenge is to master the art of gardening!



