

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 chair's 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.



MR ANDREW HARRIS, MA – CHAIR OF FAIRFIELD PREPARATORY SCHOOL BOARD

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 – CHAIR OF LOUGHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

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.



MRS ANNA MURPHY, MA – 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.



PAUL SNELLING BSc (Hons), MBA, C.Eng, MRAeS – CHAIR OF LOUGHBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOARD

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.



DR MONA ASLAM

I have been working as a Consultant Paediatrician for 17 yrs and as Designated Doctor for Children in Care for the last 3 years. My work covers a wide range of issues which young people have to deal with and which can sometimes result as medical issues when things don't go right. I enjoy working with young children and recognise the impact society has on their hopes, aspirations and their lives.

I have been part of the Foundation since my eldest (who this week graduated on line from medical school) was at Fairfield. This year has thrown up some new experiences and an online graduation was certainly not the same as seeing your child throw up his mortar board hat in the air whilst you as a parent feel that sense of gratitude and pride. My other children have also been at the foundation.

In my little spare time I enjoy walking, sometimes even jogging and cycling through our beautiful countryside. I like being creative, sewing and upcycling. I enjoy learning and taking on a challenge and am enjoying watching the children grow into young adults albeit with some new challenges for me.



MRS ELIZABETH CRITCHLEY, MA (Oxon)

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.



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.



DR JAMES ESSON, BA, MSc, PhD

James is Reader in Human Geography at Loughborough University, having studied at Newcastle University, University of Oxford and University College London. He currently holds a range of leadership and governance roles at Loughborough University, which enable him to contribute to the development, approval and monitoring of institutional strategies and policies. James' research on children's rights and safeguarding has been supported by UNICEF, and his expertise in learning and teaching has been recognised nationally and internationally, including by the Royal Geographical Society.

James is married with three children. His eldest child attends Loughborough Grammar School, his middle child is at Fairfield Prep, and his youngest is still in nappies. When he gets a moment to himself, he currently turns to the work of Eiichiro Oda, Ben Okri or Ama Ata Aidoo for entertainment. James is also a big fan of highlife music and his dancing is notorious for providing comic relief at family gatherings. He lives in Loughborough.



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 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.



AIR VICE-MARSHAL GRAHAM HOWARD, MA CB

Graham grew up and was educated in Spalding, Lincolnshire, and studied for an MA in Defence Studies at King's College University of London. Graham is currently the Director of Estates and Facilities Management at Loughborough University, a role he has held since early 2019. He is responsible for the strategic development and operational management of the University's two campuses, in Loughborough and London and leads the largest professional services department at the University comprising 725 staff and exercising responsibility for large budget.

Before his appointment at Loughborough, he spent 4 years as a Director with KPMG based in London working with public sector clients on major capital programmes and projects.

Much of Graham's working life has been spent in the Royal Air Force before retiring in the rank of Air-Vice Marshal in 2014 as the senior military Logistician in the UK Armed Forces. His last regular appointment was as the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff responsible for Logistics Support to all UK Joint Forces deployed on global operations. During the course of a 34-year career, Graham deployed on multiple operations including to Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans and Northern Ireland. He was appointed a Companion of the Honourable Order of the Bath (CB) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2014.

Graham maintains his military links as a senior RAF Reserve Officer chairing Ministry of Defence Service Complaints Panel Tribunals and as President of the Tactical Supply Wing and Servicing Commando Association. Married to Jaki who also served in the RAF and is a Practice Nurse, they have three adult daughters living between Aberdeen and Kent and live in South Northamptonshire. Interests include trying to maintain a 16th Century property and its large garden, family, travel and trying to maintain a reasonable level of fitness. He believes he may still be the RAF's veteran Luge champion on the basis that no one else has been foolish enough to make a challenge.



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 GILL RICHARDS, BA Hons, M.Ed. Hon.Ed.D

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.



MR SUNNY SHAH

Sunny Shah was educated at Fairfield Preparatory School and Loughborough Grammar School, following which he earned his BSc in Business Mathematics and Statistics from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences.

Sunny has spent the last 18 years as a professional in financial services in London and New York. Most recently as Managing Director for Goldman Sachs International **Investment** Banking and Head of EMEA Metals and Mining. Currently, Sunny is exploring a number of entrepreneurial ventures focused on energy transition.

Sunny lives in London with his wife and their two young children. They frequently return to the East Midlands to visit family and friends. Sunny is a keen traveller, passionate about spending time with family and other hobbies include skiing, cycling, golf and reading.



MRS LOUISE WEBB, BSc (Hons)

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!

