

## **The Grey Coat Hospital Executive – Governing Body**

### **ROD CLARK**

Rod Clark is currently Chair of Governors. He was first elected as a parent governor in 2012 and for a time chaired the Finance Committee. He was appointed Deputy Chair before stepping up to Chair following the tragic early death of Vicki Simmons. Rod is committed to the Christian ethos of Grey Coat and passionate about the power of education to transform lives especially for the disadvantaged. For eight years he led a charity in prison education and brings extensive experience of governance from his career in the Civil Service and in senior leadership. He also serves on the Personnel, Nominations, Finance, Development and Strategy Committees.



### **DR RENIE CHOW CHOY**

Renie is Public Historian at Westminster Abbey and Associate Lecturer in Church History at Westcott House, Cambridge. She has been a school governor at several different schools in central London since 2019 with particular responsibility for curriculum, attainment, and Pupil Premium. She also has wide governance experience within the Church of England as a member of boards responsible for the conservation of historic church buildings, and holds visiting research status at the University of Chester and University of York. Apart from her professional specialism as a historian, Renie also has a degree in Education from Columbia University Teachers College, and briefly worked with UNICEF to support girl's education in Laos. She is passionate about working with young people and marginalised groups to improve inclusion in cultural heritage institutions. She has one daughter at Grey Coat Hospital and two sons at neighbouring schools in Westminster.



### **DR GLENDA COOPER**

Dr Glenda Cooper was appointed as a parent governor in 2021 and also serves on the Development Committee. She is a former BBC and Washington Post correspondent, (from August 2024 she will transit to be Head of the journalism department at City, University of London). Having worked in further education for a decade, Glenda has seen the increased mental health challenges for our students and is passionate about helping them develop the skills and resilience to flourish in today's environment. With a firm commitment to Grey Coat's Christian ethos and inclusion, she brings knowledge around enriching the curriculum and promoting creativity, which has been a focus of her own research. She has daughters in Year 8 and 10.



## **NICOLA COTTIER**

Nicola has a passion for Christian education and has been involved in this field as a Head or Principal for the last 25 years. She serves on the Board of Governors as Chair of the Personnel Committee, a member of the Strategy Committee, Curriculum Committee and Nominations Committee, and is also the Link Governor for Safeguarding. She is appointed by the London Diocesan Board for Schools. She considers it her great privilege to champion the excellence of the education provided by The Grey Coat Hospital and also to listen, learn, advise and question as the school and governors seek to refine and review school practices.



## **ELIZABETH GIBSON, MBE**

Elizabeth Gibson is currently Vice-Chair of Governors. She was elected as a parent governor in 2004: both her daughters attended The Grey Coat Hospital and during her time as a parent she chaired the Guild from 2005 – 2007. She was appointed as an academy governor in 2012 and chairs the Admissions Committee. Currently, Elizabeth is the designated governor for SEND, Inclusion and Pupil Premium. She has also served on the following committees - Finance, Personnel, and Strategy. She taught in London primary schools for over 20 years and then went to work in the voluntary sector for 20 years. She is 'sort of' retired: how did she find time to work?



## **AMY GLOVER**

Amy is a youth worker, working for a London based charity supporting young people into further employment opportunities. She has been working in this sector for the past 11 years and is passionate about disadvantaged young people reaching their full potential. Amy is currently studying a Masters in Child Protection which she hopes will enable her to advocate for more children and young people. Amy previously attended The Grey Coat Hospital and is keen to give back to the community. She is passionate about safeguarding, inclusion and currently sits on the curriculum committee. Amy is a committed Christian and attends St Mary's church in Bermondsey.



### **NATALJA KOLESNIK**

Natalja has joined as the Support Staff Governor in January 2025. She has degrees in bookkeeping and accountancy and is currently studying for her ACCA qualification, with ambitions to continue her professional education further. Previous experience includes working for a holding company where she controlled five subsidiary companies. Natalja considers herself to be a goal-oriented person, always striving for more from life. She enjoys her role as the Financial Officer and wants to use her expertise to contribute to the effective running of the school. Natalja takes great pleasure in being part of the Grey Coat community and looks forward to gaining new experiences and learning more about the governance of the school.



### **ZSI-ZSI LESCROOGE**

Zsi-Zsi Lescrooge is currently the staff governor (teaching). She joined The Grey Coat Hospital in 2012 as a newly qualified teacher and has been in her current role of Head of KS5 Mathematics for four years. She is fully committed to the Christian ethos of the school and the power of education to transform lives. Zsi-Zsi is an enthusiastic mathematician who wants all students, regardless of prior experience, to find success and enjoyment in mathematics and has completed two national professional qualifications in Leading Teaching and Leading Teacher Development to support the Mathematics Department in achieving this goal.



### **SUSAN LOWSON**

Susan comes from a clinical background with qualifications in both paediatric and adult nursing. She has held senior nursing posts at St Thomas' Hospital in London and Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust. Susan was the Lead Clinician for the Health Service Ombudsman where she recruited and headed up a team of NHS clinicians who provided advice to the Health Investigators for complaints about NHS care. Since recent retirement she has built up a portfolio of Trustee and Governor posts. She believes passionately in the rights of children. She is a member of the Parochial Church Council at St Matthew's Church Westminster where she has also previously held the post of Church Warden. Susan is a Vice Chair and Trustee of the United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation. She has served on both the Remuneration Committee and the Nominations Committee. Susan was formerly a pupil at GCH - many years ago!



## **JOHN NESBITT**

John Nesbitt is a governor serving on the Finance and Buildings Committee. He has been a part of the GCH Governing Body since circa 2004. John was originally a trustee for GCH and became a governor to further develop his understanding of how the school is run, and to deliver a positive impact upon property matters. In addition to this John is committed to the provision of top-class education within an Academy.



## **EHSAN RAZAVIZADEH**

Ehsan joined the Governing Body as a foundation governor in March 2023. He is passionate about education and its power to create opportunities and transform lives. Ehsan has been working in the education sector for more than twenty years in roles including management, strategy consulting and advisory, policymaking, new venture creation and capacity building. Some organisations that he has worked with include London Business School; The London Institute of Banking and Finance; Bayes Business School (formerly Cass) and City, University of London. Ehsan is currently Chairman of the Charities Committee in the Worshipful Company of World Traders, governor of St Matthew's Primary School in Westminster, Fellow of the RSA and Honorary Visiting Fellow at City, University of London. He is active in several sports, charities and enjoys photography. In 2021, he ran the London Marathon as part of the fundraising team for a leading UK charity.



## **SHANAJ SALAHUDDIN**

Shanaj was elected as a Parent Governor in 2024 and has been Chair of the Grey Coat Guild, serving also on the Development Committee since 2023. She is a dedicated Civil Servant at the Department for Education and a proud mother of three girls—one a former Grey, one currently attending, and another she hopes will also join the school. Passionate about parental engagement in education, Shanaj works with a wide range of individuals and organisations to tackle educational inequality. She is the Director and Founder of Olive Education, which she established with a mission to offer three core areas of learning: Arabic studies, sports, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths. Shanaj is a Trustee at Learning with Parents and a Parent Ambassador of Stemettes. She chairs the PTA at Millbank Gardens Primary Academy, where she previously served as a Parent Governor for ten years. Her efforts extend focusing on developing enrichment programmes and creating opportunities for students from primary through to university. Shanaj is deeply committed to ensuring that all children have access to a high-quality education and is excited about her role at GCH.



## **JACKY SCHROER**

Jacky Schroer has been a governor at The Grey Coat Hospital since 2014. She is the link governor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and is on the Curriculum and Development Committees. Her daughter attended GCH throughout her secondary education and Jacky was Chair of the school's Guild (PTA) for numerous years. After over 20 years working in the major global music industry, she re-trained as a teacher. Currently, Jacky is a member of the Leadership Team at a Westminster primary school with responsibility for Writing and Religious Education & Worship; she is also a class teacher and Staff Governor there. Her participation in governance began whilst her daughter was at primary school, where she was Chair of their Governing Body. Jacky is passionate about strategically enabling The Grey Coat Hospital's community to reach its full potential, supporting the delivery of the school's vision, ethos, aims and values. She is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and collectively reviewing decisions so that the school is a safe, positive teaching, learning and sustainable environment for all.



## **JULIAN SLATER**

Julian Slater has been a governor since 2003. He started as an elected parent governor when his daughter was in year 7, before becoming a Foundation governor. Julian was chair of governors from 2012 to 2016. Julian chaired the Finance Committee from 2004 to 2016 (Finance and Buildings from 2012) and once again is chairing Finance, Buildings and Risk as from November 2019. Julian also serves on the Admissions Committee and in the past has served on the Curriculum Committee. Before serving as a governor at Grey Coat, Julian was a governor at St James Church of England Primary School Muswell Hill for eleven years and was chair of governors for ten of those years. Julian is a Chartered Accountant, CFO – EMEA for Korn Ferry until 2023 and now a Senior Advisor to Korn Ferry, a US NYSE publicly quoted global organisational consulting firm. Julian is a committed Christian and worships at St Peter's Muswell Hill, a church plant of St James Muswell Hill where Julian served as Church Warden for ten years. Julian really values the Christian ethos of Grey Coat and the importance of helping every student to realise their full potential.



## **SUSANNE STAAB**

Susanne attends the Governing Body as Headteacher of The Grey Coat Hospital. Susanne has over 30 years of teaching and leadership experience spanning the selective, non-selective and independent sectors. She is also a trained OFSTED inspector. Her subject specialisms are History, Politics and Sociology and she loves maintaining a regular teaching commitment. Susanne is passionate about providing opportunities which will allow young people to achieve and succeed in life irrespective of background, needs or ability. Having served over eight years as Headteacher of a selective boys' school with a mixed sixth form in Kent, she embarked on her second headship at The Grey Coat Hospital in January 2020.



She recently led the school through a successful OFSTED inspection in October 2022 which resulted in "outstanding" judgements in all categories and overall. Susanne also acts as a Professional Conduct Panellist for the Teaching Regulation Agency.

### **FREDERICK STUEMANN SCHULENBURG**

Frederick Studemann Schulenburg is currently a Foundation parent governor and Chair of the Curriculum Committee as well as a member of the Strategy Committee. He was first elected as Parent Governor in 2011. He was a member of the taskforce committee that oversaw Grey Coat's transition to academy status. Fred is committed to the ethos of Grey Coat, its comprehensive status and the ability of education to transform lives. He is particularly supportive of Grey Coat's status as a Language College and believes strongly in the importance of the teaching and awareness of foreign languages and cultures. He has worked as a journalist for over 30 years, most of them at the Financial Times where he has held various positions, including Assistant Editor, Comment Editor and Political Correspondent. He is currently the FT's Literary editor.



### **GILES THOMAS**

Giles joined the Governing Body as a parent governor in 2017, when he had two daughters at GCH. Working in the university sector, he is passionate about education and the opportunities it opens up; this is what motivates him to make a contribution to the school. He sees the introduction of the Grey Coat Gift as very important for the ongoing financial health of the school and wants to help foster a culture of giving in our school community. Currently he is Chair of the Development Committee and serves on the Finance and Strategy Committees, and is a co-opted governor.



### **THOMAS WOODHOUSE**

Thomas was appointed to the governing body in 2023, as the nominated governor of the Dean of Westminster. He serves on the Admissions Committee. Thomas was a parish priest in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Dorset and was appointed Chaplain of the King's Chapel of the Savoy within the Duchy of Lancaster in 2019. Since 1998 Thomas has been a governor in a variety of church aided, church controlled and community schools; chairing two governing bodies. The focus of Thomas' ministry has been to work with lay and ordained colleagues to renew and resource worshipping communities: growing people's confidence and empowering them to reach out into the community. Thomas says his imagination works best in the company of others and he delights in working with people from across the whole community.



