










Governors – Pen Picture

Name of Governor	Photo	Pen Picture
Fru Hazlitt Chair of Governors Governor since 2008 Past Pupil at DH Parent at DH		<p>Fru is the Founder and CEO of La Piazza SRL and Chair of DH School and a Trustee of Merlin Magic Wand. She has held senior executive positions across the UK's media & technology industries including managing director of commercial, online, and interactive at ITVPlc, Chief Executive at GCap Media PLC, Chief Exec at Virgin Radio and MD of Yahoo UK. She is also former independent director at Merlin Entertainments PLC and Betfair PLC.</p>
Veryan Exelby (Richards) Governor since 2014 Past Parent at DH		<p>Veryan is a solicitor with Farrer & Co, specialising in Safeguarding.</p> <p>Governor at St Paul's School and trustee of the Nicola Benedetti Foundation</p>
Fiona Holmes Governor since 2015 Past Parent at DH		<p>Fiona is currently the Chair of Blue Ventures, previously a retail Director & MD. After graduating from Edinburgh University, she spent 20 years at Marks & Spencer then held MD positions within the N, Brown PLC. As a trustee, she has sat on the Board of The Octavia Foundation a housing charity, Smart Works which supports women back into full time work as well as being a Governor at Downe House. She is also the Chair of Blue Ventures a marine conservation charity and volunteers at Smart Works and SHOUT, a Crisis text service alongside mentoring young entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Fiona is passionate about women being given the opportunity to live their best lives and about leaving a small contribution to her community.</p>
Dr Christopher O'Kane Governor since 2015 Past Parent at DH		<p>Christopher is a Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford where he is a zoologist.</p> <p>His daughter went to DH and is now in her last year at Durham University</p>

<p>Mark Ridley</p> <p>Estates – Chair</p> <p>Governor since 2016</p> <p>Parent at DH</p>		<p>Mark is Chartered Surveyor of 25 years experience working as a partner in a small practice focussing on central London</p>
<p>Elizabeth Clarke</p> <p>Governor since 2018</p>		<p>Elizabeth has over twenty years of external relations experience in the independent sector in the UK and globally including in the corporate space. She is Founder and CEO of EJC Education Consultancy a specialist practice offering families advice on school choice and university preparation, largely but not exclusively for the USA. EJC Education Consultancy also supports schools globally with their university and college provision.</p> <p>Elizabeth is a Governor of Whitgift School, an HMC school near London, has been a Governor of an HMC/ IAPS co-educational boarding and day school and supports the Friends of Sussex Hospices.</p>
<p>Joe Smith</p> <p>Education – Chair</p> <p>Governor since 2017</p>		<p>Joe is the Head Master of The Oratory School, a co-educational Catholic HMC boarding and day school in South Oxfordshire.</p> <p>He takes on a new Headship at St Benedict's, Ealing in September 2023</p>
<p>Dr Clare Ratnage (Michell)</p> <p>Safeguarding – Chair</p> <p>Governor since 2018</p> <p>Past pupil at DH</p>		<p>Clare joined the Board in 2018 and is the Chair of the Safeguarding Committee. She is a Downe House alumna and works in Wiltshire as a GP. Alongside her clinical work she has an interest in medical education, and when not at her desk she enjoys spending time with her three young children.</p>
<p>Tim Boucher</p> <p>F&GP – Chair</p> <p>Governor since 2019</p> <p>Parent at DH</p>		<p>Tim is a UK based chartered accountant and senior finance executive at FTSE100 listed Smiths Group plc. He is also Trustee of Sentebale, a UK based charity working in southern Africa to support children living with, and at risk of, HIV.</p>

		Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
Paola Diana Governor since 2022		Paola achieved a BSc in Political Science and an MA in Institutional Relations from the University Alma Mater Studiorum of Bologna, Italy, before probing into the world of politics and then becoming an entrepreneur. Paola is the Founder & CEO of Artemide Recruitment, leading the recruitment private and secretarial sector with clients worldwide, particularly in UK, Europe, Middle East and USA. She is also the author of 'Saving the World. Women: the XXI's Century Factor for Change' – that combines the theories of sociology and history in order to show us where sexism and misogyny come from and how to end them, once and for all.
Sally McNair Scott Development Committee – Chair Governor since 2022 Parent at DH		<p>Sally is the Global General Counsel for Control Risks and is the director and corporate secretary of their Main Board as well as chairing their Risk Committee and sitting on the Executive Committee and Ethics Committee. She heads their Legal, Risk & Compliance team and is responsible for overseeing Control Risks' worldwide legal affairs including corporate matters, access to information, privacy, records management, intellectual property and disputes.</p> <p>Sally is married and has four daughters all of whom have been to Downe House.</p>
Caroline Ross Governor since 2022		<p>Caroline is an experienced HR professional with a focus on innovation and technology, and a deep understanding of colleagues and culture. She is currently Chief People Officer of FTSE 100 company, Flutter Entertainment Plc, and also holds non-executive positions on the boards of Moat Housing Association and Studio Retail Group.</p> <p>Caroline previously held director level positions with Channel 4, Moneysupermarket.com Group plc, Shine Ltd, News International Newspapers Ltd, and Talkback Thames.</p>
Nick Woods Governor since 2022		Nick is Director of Finance and Operations at Oxford High School (independent day school with 880 girls). He is a Chartered Accountant and has worked as a Finance Director in various sectors including construction, transport, publishing and corporate travel, and was a Governor at

		Pangbourne College for five years, where he chaired the Finance Committee.
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