



Governor Profiles [01.09.2020]

Skinner's Company Governors



John Hitchins, Chair of Governors [appointed 19/6/13] worked for PwC from 1976 in London (with three years in Hong Kong), became a partner in 1988 and retired in 2014. He is now a non-executive director at Aldermore Group and Societe Generale International Ltd and is also a senior advisor at the Financial Reporting Council. He has served as chair of finance at Tonbridge School and then chaired the Skinners Company's Investment and Finance committees. He was Master in 2014/15. He is also chairman of a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities.



Dickon Searle, Responsible Officer [appointed 15/03/17] is a Chartered Accountant who has worked in financial services for over 20 years; most recently at the International Private Equity investor Bridgepoint Advisers as their Group Financial Controller. Educated at Tonbridge School and Newcastle University, he is a Liveryman of the Skinners Company.



Peter Braggins, SEN Governor, Chair of Education, Careers Governor [appointed 4/12/14] taught in five schools between 1968-2005, ending with 14 years as Headteacher of The Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells. Since then he has been Chair of the West Kent Pupil Referral Unit (2005-6) and part time Senior Lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, working especially with young teachers on the Teach First programme in London and Kent. Peter is a Liveryman of the Skinners Company.



Daniel Maynard-Taylor [appointed 13/03/19] was educated at Shiplake College and he served in the Irish Guards. His business career started in sales of accounting machines and computers for NCR over a nine year period before starting his own company in commercial print manufacturing, which he still owns today. He has just complete his term as an Extra Member of Court and Third Warden of the Skinners' Company and serves on multiple committees of the company.



Graeme Bayley [appointed 11/03/20] was educated at Judd School and Southampton University (Physics). He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte Haskins & Sells (now PwC) and spent 30 years in investment banking predominantly as an adviser, latterly as a CFO. He has previously served as a governor of the Skinners School and Judd School, is a liveryman of the Skinners Company where he has served on various committees, and remains passionate about learning.

Principal



Shaun Simmons [appointed 1/4/13] has been Principal of The Marsh Academy since 2013. He studied Mathematics at University of Bristol and PGCE Mathematics at Canterbury Christ Church University College. He has taught at a number of local schools; selective and non-selective.

Sponsor Governors

James Priory [appointed 01/09/18] [appointed 01/09/18] became Headmaster of Tonbridge School in September 2018. He was appointed Head of English at The Portsmouth Grammar School in 2000 and served as Headmaster for a decade. He graduated from Oxford University with a first in English Language and Literature and went on to teach English at Bradford Grammar School for six years. He has held leading roles within the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC).

Lin Burrows, Chair of Communications [appointed 22/09/16] was Vice Principal at the Marsh Academy (2007 – 2013) having worked at the predecessor school for over 30 years. She is currently working as an educational consultant. Lin was also a director and financial advisor of Hythe Golf Club Ltd.

Co-opted Governors

Nigel Brotherton, Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee, Child in Care Governor, Equality Governor [appointed 17/6/09] read history at Exeter College, Oxford and then worked for 12 years in the Home Civil Service, before joining the John Lewis Partnership where he spent 21 years rising to Group Director with particular responsibilities for employee ownership. He has also served as a Board Director of the British Retail Consortium, and as a member of Merton Council.

Vicki Soutar [appointed 05/01/09] is a solicitor, who lived and worked in Hong Kong for 14 years before returning with her family in 1996 to live in Lamberhurst. She trained as a teacher and taught law, before returning to the profession as a Legal Adviser to Central Kent Bench of Justices. She was Assistant Bursar at Sevenoaks before retiring in 2018 and has been a governor at The Marsh since 2008.

Sarah Miles, Safeguarding Governor [appointed 15/03/17] read Biology at Imperial College and obtained her PGCE at Bristol University. She has followed a career in teaching in several schools in London and Kent, held management positions as Second Mistress and Head of Science, and been a Kent maintained school Governor. She is now actively involved in education in the City of London and in the Educators' Company.

James Fisher [appointed 11/03/20] is Deputy Head co-curricular at Tonbridge school, having previously been boarding housemaster, head of chemistry and master in charge of football. Before moving to Tonbridge, he taught in North London, where he was a day housemaster.



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