

Kevin Adamson

This is my first foray into governance but felt the timing was right for me to make a difference. I have great admiration for what the leadership has done with the school and want to be part of it attaining the highest Ofsted accreditation.

I grew up in Hampshire but returned to Bucks in 1999, now living in Aston Abbots with my wife and daughter.

As a BEng Honours graduate of the University of Portsmouth, my work has mainly been in Telecommunications for over 2 decades, mostly in large corporations and in the last decade closely watching this converge with the internet, software as a Service and Cloud technology. Early in my career I ran Network operation teams in the conferencing industry, then moved into Product Development/Project Management and more recently all things Business Operational. I spent two years working for a west coast US start-up who were then acquired by a global networking and IT company in 2015, where I now work leading business operations for the software developer platform. When I am not working I enjoy DIY, golf and hill walking, as well as spending time with my family and friends.

Mark Bennett

I have worked in several sectors and found myself settling in Facilities Management, an area that I enjoy. Recently I qualified in Fire Management and Risk Assessment of complex buildings, IOSH, certified trainer of Fire Marshal, asbestos awareness and Evac chair extraction. I enjoy this role as it brings new challenges every day, presenting the need for problem solving.

Outside of work I am a keen DIY'er, coach for a local girls' football team, and now a school governor.

Michelle Billington

Working as part of a Senior HR Leadership Team, I'm an energetic HR Professional specialising in organisational development and change management. I am responsible for the cultural transformation strategy with a specific focus on leadership development, employee engagement and building an inclusive culture.

Cottesloe was our first choice for our son's secondary education as we were really impressed with the vision of the Cottesloe Leadership Team and their determination to achieve an Outstanding Status with Ofsted. Our son is in Year 8 and it would be my privilege to support the school where I can as a Parent Governor.

Gillian Evans

I joined the Cottesloe Board of Governors in September 2019 having previously been a governor at my children's primary school in Stewkley for 8 years. I thoroughly enjoyed the role and the challenge, the satisfaction it brought as well as actually being able to make a difference to the children's education.

I am married with two children who are both at secondary school, and two step children who are now both in higher education at University. Three years ago I became a Learning Support Assistant at Egerton-Rothesay school in Berkhamsted, which is a private school for children all of whom have special needs. It is an incredibly challenging but thoroughly rewarding role and I have learned valuable information about SEN children. I am sure I can bring some of my knowledge and expertise in this area to The Cottesloe School and the already outstanding SEN team.

In my previous life I was a Marketing Manager for 12 years where I gained valuable insight into the world of consumer marketing, brands marketing and strategy planning. It was a very dynamic role and I am hoping I may be able to put some of the skills I learnt there to good use for The Cottesloe School.

In my spare time, I am studying to be a counsellor. Eventually I would like to specialise in this field, using all the knowledge and experience I have gained through my working life, put it to good use and be able to help people to achieve happiness and their full potential.

I am passionate about education and ensuring that every child receives the opportunity to access learning and life skills; I look forward to an exciting future with The Cottesloe School and am proud to be part of a strong, committed and enthusiastic Governing Body.

Ben Garland

I am delighted to have been appointed to the position of staff governor. I am a career teacher and an experienced curriculum leader of one of the largest departments in the school (Science). I have held a number of responsibilities within the school previously – Head of House, Lead Teacher, Deputy Head of Science, Head of Physics.

I have seen a huge amount of positive change in the school over the 15 years that I have worked here – including the impact of four previous Head Teachers. My experience and time spent in the school has given me extensive knowledge of the needs of our students and, importantly as a staff governor, the needs of our staff.

I am a father of two; my eldest currently attends Overstone school (my youngest attends the Ashbourne Day Nursery within the grounds) and I hope that following Year 6 they will have a place at The Cottesloe School. I hope that my contributions and participation as a governor will help support the school strategically in order to maximize the achievements of all our students.

Kim Hardings

I have been working at The Cottesloe School for around a year as Attendance and Pastoral Support Officer and have experience working in school support staff teams for seven years in total. I look forward to fully engaging with the existing governing body in providing a perspective on school life from a support staff viewpoint.

Personally, I am married and have three children, the youngest of which is currently in Year 7 at the School. I am actively involved in a number of village organisations, including Stewkley Football Club where I have co-ordinated the refreshments rota for each Saturday morning during the junior season for the past three years. In addition, our family actively support Stewkley Vicarage Cricket Club, from a playing, coaching and management perspective, I have been regularly involved with organising fundraising events, the most recent of which have been a Barn Dance and a Sunday Breakfast.

As a prospective and current parent, and now staff member, I have been very impressed by the progress made by The Cottesloe School over recent years in terms of academic achievement, however I do believe that there is still much more that we need to improve on. In the short term, I am looking forward to the challenge of helping the school achieve the 'good' Ofsted rating it deserves, then to drive standards even higher.

Paul Kitchen

I am a Newport Pagnell chap, but have lived with my wife in Newton Longville for 15 years. My daughter is in her second year at The Cottesloe School, and loves it. We are a busy family, bouncing between Scouts and friends, and nearby family. I play piano for various comedy events, and now and again play in Piano Bars, with the most magnificent singers and players, which is my first love. Work for me is co-running a small branding agency in Milton Keynes, with my two business partners. We work with SME's, corporates, and not-for-profit organisations. Marketing challenges keep me interested, and those do crop up daily, so an ideal place to work, plus our office is in Bletchley Park, which is such an inspiring place to be.

I highly respect the achievements of the leaders and staff at The Cottesloe School, and look forward to playing a part in its continued success.

Ali McKenna

Having been a governor at my children's primary school for eight years it seemed the opportune time to join the governing body at The Cottesloe School with my youngest son having joined the school last year.

I am married with two sons, the youngest in Year 8. We are a sporty family, and our spare time is predominately spent on a football pitch.

I am passionate about education and believe that every child should have the chance to maximise their potential. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to be part of a governing body that will continue to develop and raise the aspirations of the whole school.

Kate Mulcahy

I am married with two children. My youngest is in Year 9, and having seen friends' children go right through Cottesloe and on to great careers and universities, I am keen to make a contribution to the school.

After starting my career in the civil service, I spent 20 years working at Ashridge Management College, running leadership programmes, working as an organisation development consultant and joining the board as marketing director. When my children were at school, I retrained as a primary teacher - a job I absolutely loved, and which was without doubt the most challenging of my life. I now work in Bedfordshire in a local authority role supporting and training newly qualified teachers and working with schools to ensure assessment processes are thorough and accurate.

I have been a parent governor before, at my children's nursery school, and am looking forward to being involved with The Cottesloe School at an exciting time in its development.

Laura Robertson

I live across the Bucks/Beds border in Leighton Buzzard and currently work in a support role at a local school, which fits around my family commitments.

I have spent my career in the public sector, working in HR for an NHS Trust and for local councils at district and county level – specialising in training, learning and development. I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management, gaining Associate membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).

My current role provides an insight into the challenges facing the education system. I appreciate the pivotal role schools play in providing young people with opportunities and raising aspirations in the classroom and beyond.

I am joining The Cottesloe School's Board of Governors at an exciting time and hope to contribute to the continued development of the School in my role as Governor.

Mark Watson

As a Governor of Overstone Combined I have learnt many of the skills needed to be an effective School Governor including finance, buildings maintenance and curriculum, with especial interest in maths and science. I'm active in the village community as Group Scout Leader and have developed links with the school in delivering outdoor activities in support of wider learning for students. My eldest daughter actively chose The Cottesloe School because of the welcoming atmosphere and 'can do' attitude of the whole school; she is now flourishing in Year 9.

In my working life I use forensic science skills in a wide variety of different crime scenes and am line manager for twelve professional technicians. What's that got to do with being a School Governor? Well, it's all in the analysis of detail, weighing of evidence and questioning what you've been told; all key skills for a Governor. With the introduction of accreditation to ISO quality standards within my profession I am also leading on the development and delivery of competency training across the workforce.

I have a real passion for education, both formal and informal, and hope to be able to bring the right level of challenge and support to enable the senior leadership of the school to deliver the very best outcomes for all students, and to build upon the excellent work already undertaken.