

# Governor Profiles 2022-23



## Foundation Governors

### **Sofia Massa, Chair**

Appointed January 2020



Sofia is committed to strengthening and enriching the important relationship between the school, the parish and the wider community. She has a varied experience of volunteering with children and young adults in non-profit organisations. She is a Statistician engaged in research and lecturing in higher education.

### **Alison Templer, Vice-Chair**

Appointed October 2021



Alison has had careers in catering and accountancy, before she became a primary school teacher in 2003. She worked at the same catholic school in High Wycombe, becoming R.E. co-ordinator. After her move to Oxfordshire, Alison has had various teaching positions including in a local school. She has recently retired and sees the role of a governor as a way to carry on her desire to help all children feel special and achieve their potential. She attends St John the Evangelist Church in Banbury, where she is a Eucharistic minister and also the Catechist for children not attending a catholic school. Alison believes that a faith school has a unique quality that allows children to grow in all aspects of life, as well as putting Jesus at the centre. She hopes to use her knowledge as a primary

school teacher to support the governors and head teacher in developing the school's education and faith journeys.

### **John Bellasis**

Appointed October 2016



Freight Transport has been the theme of John's career and it involves more than you might think. He was awarded a Certificate in Management by the Open University to enhance his experience as a Commercial Manager. Prior to that he was a Systems Analyst designing and writing high level computer programs. He has been involved with National Vocational Qualifications as an Assessor and an External Verifier and relates his experiences in this with coaching. For a short time John ran his own manufacturing business making gutters for large premises, and this required expertise in forecasting, budgeting, costing and monitoring. In addition, he has driven trucks at a class 1 level, and this kind of work requires effort, accuracy and a great deal of consideration.

**Janice Relano**

Appointed February 2021



Janice is a parent of a child in the school. She has helped with school trips and is an active fund-raising member of the Friends of St Thomas More. As a Reader at the St Thomas More church, she is keen to strengthen the links between the school and the parish. Since 2008, Janice has worked in various roles in Retail. Before that she was a Surveyor carrying out schedules of dilapidations, carrying out asbestos surveys and air testing after removal works, plus fire risk assessments. She has worked with both public and private sector companies and organisations, including county and local councils and a large public house chain. After moving from Suffolk to Oxfordshire the nature of her work included assisting with site measuring for plans, site visits and product checks; fire risk assessments continued. She enjoys reading historical literature and walking.

**Marta Navas Mir**

Appointed April 2021



Marta is a parent of children in the school and she has a strong Catholic background. She holds an MSc in Industrial Organization Engineering and is skilled in graphic design. She has been an international account manager in fashion design and she has qualified to teach Arts & Technical Drawing at GCSE level. Her experiences in volunteering and organizing volunteering activities for young people are extensive internationally. She is currently the Marketing and Quality Officer of the Family Development Foundation supporting families through training. She is co-founder of NEED-Ü, reintegrating the homeless into society and conducting formative talks to young people. She has worked in a Secondary school and been a Confirmation catechist.

**Shirin Kumar**

Appointed November 2021



Shirin feels honoured to have been appointed as one of the Foundation (Catholic) Governors of the school. She joined the St Thomas More School family when her son started in Reception in 2017. After graduating in Law, she has worked in numerous challenging roles in the public sector including the Royal Courts of Justice and the NHS. She is currently working part time at the John Radcliffe Hospital and runs her own cake design business. She thoroughly enjoys being part of the school community and has increasingly wanted to use her skills and experience to help the school in their journey of continuous improvement. She looks forward to the positive contributions she can make to the School in achieving their mission.

### **Pablo Callejo Goena**

Appointed September 2022



Pablo holds an MSc in Telecommunications Engineering, with advanced training in Business Management, Leadership and Innovation, and international experience living in Singapore, Spain and the United Kingdom. During almost five years he worked as Vice-Principal at a private Primary & Secondary School, creating and coordinating various educational programmes for students, parents and teachers. He then reoriented and extensively developed his career into the world of software programming, specifically for the design of 3D human motion capture applications, and taking on executive positions in various areas including Product, Sales and General Management. He now lives in Kidlington with his wife and three children, two of them in the school.

### **Rocio Vicens Poveda**

Appointed September 2022



Rocío is a parent of a child in school. She is a qualified lawyer and a qualified teacher. She has worked in different educational institutions in Kenya and in the UK, and is very passionate about working with young people. She believes that our school is the perfect place to give our children a holistic education and is very excited to be involved.

## **Parent Governors**

### **Anand Kulkarni**

Elected September 2022



Anand joined the Governing board in Sept 2022 as Parent Governor. He is a parent of children in the school. He has significant and varied business management experience across multiple industries. He holds a PhD in Operations Management from Cambridge University and currently works as Director of Process Automation in a global company. He has experience in strategy development, organisational change, program and people management. He strongly believes that school plays an important role in providing a solid foundation for academic education and inculcating the children with the right values. Anand is passionate about children's education and looking forward to helping the school to continuously improve.

## **Bernard Meta**

Elected September 2022



Bernard has grown up in Oxford and recently moved to Kidlington. Bernard's daughter attends the St Thomas More and he wants to provide support to the school and the community where possible. Bernard is an outdoor individual who enjoys bike rides, walks and visiting local green spaces around Kidlington and Oxford. Bernard is a keen gardener and proactively seeking to become and encourage more sustainable living. Bernard wants to be able to support the school to be at its best, by actively working with the governors and school to achieve maximum results for the students, staff and the wider community.

## **Staff Governor**

### **Rania Naser**

Appointed July 2020



Rania joined the St Thomas More family first as a parent in 2009 and then as a staff member in 2011. She is passionate about teaching and working with children, a passion that started at the age of 15 when helping in Sunday school in Lebanon. Her teaching journey started in 1996 and she has taught in many different schools since then. Rania also helps children in the parish prepare to receive their Sacrament of Confirmation. Outside of school, Rania works as an EAL teacher.

## **Co-opted Governors**

### **Chris Robins**

Appointed July 2018



Chris Robins first became a Governor of St Thomas More School in 2001. Originally appointed by the County Council as an independent observer at the transition to Academy status, he has continuously served on the Governing Board as a Co-opted Governor since that time. He is retired from the civil service, before which he had experience as a manager in the then National Bus Company. Chris served as a Kidlington Parish Councillor from 1995 to 2015. He has been part of the editorial team of the local magazine Kidlington News since 2005. Chris is very active in Kidlington Baptist Church, of which he is currently a trustee, member of the leadership team and Treasurer. He is actively involved in ecumenical working between different churches, and is currently Treasurer of Churches Together in Oxfordshire.

## Rhian Pye

Appointed September 2019



Rhian Pye brings to the Governing Board direct experience and knowledge of the education sector having held a number of roles in secondary and higher education. Since 2010, Rhian has worked as a secondary school chemistry teacher where she has held leadership roles including Head of Department with responsibility for leading a team of teachers and support staff, implementing curriculum changes and improving results. Prior to this, Rhian worked as a Post Doctoral Research Associate at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, where she was involved in scientific research and teaching roles.

## Terms of office

Governor	Name	First appointed	Current term of office	
			from	to
Foundation	John Bellasis	28/10/2016	28/10/2020	28/10/2024
	Sofia Mass	17/01/2020	17/01/2020	16/01/2024
	Janice Relano	08/02/2021	08/02/2021	07/02/2025
	Marta Navas Mir	19/04/2021	19/04/2021	18/04/2025
	Alison Templer	14/10/2021	14/10/2021	13/10/2025
	Shirin Kumar	04/11/2021	04/11/2021	03/11/2025
	Rocio Vicens Paveda	05/09/2022	05/09/2022	04/09/2026
	Pablo Callejo Goena	07/09/2022	07/09/2022	06/09/2026
Staff	Rania Naser	14/07/2020	14/07/2020	13/07/2024
Parent	Anand Kulkarni	05/09/2022	05/09/2022	04/09/2026
	Bernard Meta	05/09/2022	05/09/2022	04/09/2026
Co-opted	Chris Robins	01/07/2001	01/07/2022	30/06/2026
	Rhian Pye	01/09/2019	01/09/2019	31/08/2023

To find out more about becoming a School Governor please contact the school office or email [chair@stthomas-more.org.uk](mailto:chair@stthomas-more.org.uk).