

Dear Parents/Carers

I was elected Chair of Governors in September 2018, following the unexpected departure of our excellent former Chair, Hanja de Beer, to Essex. I'm happy to have been a Cranmere governor for many years, concentrating on ICT until two years ago, when I took on the role of Literacy Governor. It is a privilege to be involved in this lovely school, supporting an outstanding, very hardworking leadership team and staff.

I worked in IT for 37 years, starting as a graduate trainee with IBM in 1967 (yes, in the days of punched cards, printouts with holes at the sides, 30Mb disks, and no screens), and finished in 2004 as Corporate Head of IT at a London Borough, focussing on strategy, business analysis and procurement. I do have some fairly irrelevant (for a primary school) experience of teaching: as a truly unqualified volunteer maths teacher at a secondary school in Tanzania for 2 years after University, and as a Senior Lecturer in Data Processing (an old name for IT) at Kingston Polytechnic when my children were young. I have granddaughters in primary school in Australia, in years 2 and 5, so it's interesting to compare the two systems,

We have an excellent mix of experience and skills on the Governing Body:

- Senior Lecturer in Health & Exercise Prescription, Kingston University. Knowledge of educational practices/policy and context, data analysis, strategic planning.
- Development officer for a National charity offering support and training for people with disabilities and mental health needs. Has used negotiating skills to broker work opportunities and provide advice and support for employers. Senior lecturer at a local tertiary college offering work orientated modules for younger people with a learning disability. Home start Volunteer supporting families with children under 5 years old.
- Former Lettings Manager in social housing, currently working as a business analyst in the same sector, specialising in the design and implementation of customer relationship management software. Has an understanding of safeguarding procedures, stakeholder management, looking at performance data and ensuring that policies are fit for purpose.
- Teaching assistant in KS1 for 13 years. Skilled at guiding, nurturing, and increasing the children's knowledge of the curriculum through interventions, encouragement and fun.
- Assessment Director at an exam board, responsible for the creation of all the exam papers, the marking of all the exams and delivering on-time, accurate results for GCSEs and A levels. Areas of expertise are strategy and research, assessment design and delivery.
- Financial Advisor to many Local Authorities. Elmbridge Councillor.

- Electronic engineer and Computing expert with a background in Physics who works for an educational charity. Has run coding classes and clubs at Cranmere for some years. Also coaches junior rugby at a Surrey club.
- Early career as a Video games journalist, while obtaining a degree in biomedicine. Independent Consultant in public relations and marketing before becoming Head of European Marketing at a big US Tech and games company. Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. Most definitely not a “spin doctor”. Qualified martial arts instructor.
- Former online and print journalist. Worked as reporter and news editor for a large group of newspapers on local matters, including Council meetings and campaigns to highlight issues and injustices. Currently member of the Communications team at the Police Federation. Elmbridge Councillor.