Governor Biographies

Name of Governor	Biography
MATT BENN **(Chair of Governors; Parent Governor)**	Both of my children are current Northwood School students, and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn and thrive there. My professional background combines data analytics and programme/project management in the public sector - I have 20 years' NHS experience, and currently work for an Integrated Care Board in London. I hope that the school will benefit from my experience in evidence-based decision-making, establishing strong governance foundations, and following principles of accountability and assurance. I have previously been a governor of another local school, and served as co-chair for 2 years. In my spare time, I enjoy being part of the local community with my wife and children, playing and watching sports, and cooking. I was born and raised about 15 minutes away from Northwood School.
RUTH AMAN **(Co-Opted Governor)**	I am a Senior Lecturer in initial teacher education at Brunel University London. I have had a long interest in dialogic teaching and learning. Over the last twenty years I have been involved in secondary education both as a secondary school teacher and as a researcher and lecturer in higher education in the UK and in the USA. My decision to be a governor was motivated by a desire to serve my local community in a meaningful way.
SAGAR KOTHARI **(Co-Opted Governor)**	I have been a solicitor for over 17 years, specialising in corporate finance and derivatives, and working at city law firms and investment banks. My legal training and professional background has given me problem-solving, communication and governance skills, as well as a strong understanding of risk, strategy and accountability. I am keen to bring these skills and perspective to my role as a school governor.

	I have previously worked with multiple charities in strategic roles, and have enjoyed holding a variety of volunteering positions within my local community for a number of years. I am passionate about the education of young people, and ensuring that young people have every opportunity to succeed and grow into well-rounded individuals. Living close to the school (and having grown up nearby), I value the school's place in the local community and am committed to supporting its continued development and success Aside from my work, I enjoy reading, cooking and spending time with my two young children.
DAVID EMMOTT **(Co-Opted Governor)**	I attended Northwood School between 2013-2015, and was Head boy in the AY 2014-2015. Since then, I have worked in corporate finance on commercial lending for the past five years. The opportunity to get involved in the school's operational activity is something I relish and I feel this role has a significant impact on the local community. Having lived in the surrounding area for the majority of my life, it has a personal meaning to me beyond the results data. I am keen to see the school thrive and play its role in the local community as an exemplar institution. One that provides excellent opportunities in life to children of varying backgrounds.
LOUISE SKEHAN **(Parent Governor)**	As a newly appointed governor at Northwood School, I bring over 25 years of experience as an employment solicitor and 15 years of judicial service across Tribunals, including Employment, Immigration, Social Entitlement, and Disability Discrimination within the educational sector. My professional background has allowed me to develop strong analytical skills and a thorough knowledge of the Equality Act. I am passionate about providing our young people with the opportunities and support they need to thrive. I look forward to positively contributing to the school community in a meaningful and impactful way.

SEEMA GATTANI **(Co-opted Governor)**	Having worked across the retail and manufacturing sectors, I bring strong analytical skills and the ability to make considered, data-based decisions. I enjoy exploring complex issues, asking the right questions and developing practical strategies to address challenges. I am also involved in the running of a school in India, giving me valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities of delivering education. Having studied in two very different countries, I appreciate how different educational approaches can shape children's learning and development. As a parent of two children in senior school, I understand the importance of providing young people with the right academic, personal and pastoral support to help them fulfil their potential. I hope to bring a balanced perspective to the governing board contributing to the school's strategic development, and have a positive contribution.
LAURA PRYER **(Staff Governor)**	I am currently in my seventh year of teaching at Northwood School, having completed my teacher training here through the Teach First programme. I progressed into middle leadership early in my career and have been Head of Mathematics since January 2023. I am actively involved in wider school life, supporting a range of extracurricular activities and initiatives. I have previously coached the school netball team and supported a sports tour to Holland. Having experienced first-hand the benefits of sport, I am passionate about encouraging young people to engage in opportunities beyond the classroom. I have also contributed to staff wellbeing initiatives, including organising end-of-term celebrations. As Staff Governor, I bring first-hand insight into the day-to-day running of the school and the practical implications of strategic decisions for staff and students. My leadership experience enables me to consider the feasibility of proposed initiatives, while my mathematical background provides strong analytical skills and the ability to critically evaluate data. I look forward to using these skills to support informed decision-making and contribute to Northwood School's continued development and success.