

Our Trustees

Andrew Hodgkin – Chairman

Andrew trained as a Chartered Accountant and spent 10 years working for Ernst & Young in the UK and the US, including a two-year secondment to the UK Listing Authority (the regulator for listed companies), which is now part of the FCA. He then moved into investment banking with Cazenove (later JPMorgan Cazenove) where he was responsible for a range of UK telecoms, media and technology clients, providing them with advice on M&A, equity and debt issuance and general stock market and Listing Rules advice. After 18 years, he left and became finance director to a technology start-up company raising over £70 million. Andrew became Bursar at Sevenoaks Prep School in 2024.



Nishma Acharya

Nishma has a successful career history including as an executive personal assistant, office manager and logistics project manager. Nishma knows the school very well as she has also been employed as a matron of a boarding house at RAAS and on school reception, and is currently an invigilator for exams at RAAS. Nishma is both a Governor at RAAS and a trustee of the Foundation.



John Billingham

John Billingham joined Royal Alexandra and Albert School, as a pupil, in 1949, on the former Royal Albert School site at Camberley in Surrey. John left the School in 1959, to join the BBC, where he worked for twenty-nine years in programme production and management. John maintained a connection with the School via its Old Scholars Association, as well as personal friendship with his former house-parents. In 1999, John became a Governor of the School's Governing Body and served as Co Vice Chair and Chair of the Governing Body for many years. John has been a trustee of the Foundation since 2007



Cindy Black - Treasurer

Cindy graduated from the University of Wales, College of Cardiff with a BSC (ECON) Hons in Economics, banking and Finance. Cindy has since spent over 30 years working as an accountant, qualifying in practice in 1996 and having worked for PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Cindy has a wide breadth of experience across strategy, finance, business planning and transformation, having undertaken senior roles, to Board level, in varying kind of organisations and across multiple industry sectors. Cindy has also undertaken roles encompassing responsibility for People and IT teams and takes a strong interest in Environment, Sustainability and Governance aspects.



Gary Griffin

Gary has spent forty years working in education. A graduate of Exeter University (BA in Economic & Social History) and a PGCE from London Institute of Education, he entered the teaching profession in 1981 as a history teacher at City of London School. There he rose to Senior Deputy Head and then moved to Immanuel College, Bushey to be Head Master. He retired from this role in December 2021 and is now a non-executive director at the Pegasus Academy Trust in Croydon and Chair of Governors at Chelsea Academy. He joined RAAS as a trustee in May 2022.



Ononuju Irukwu

Ononuju is a Financial Adviser and Investment Management professional with over 3 decades of experience, providing financial and investment advice to high-net-worth individuals, family offices and institutions. She currently leads the Private Banking Department of FirstBank UK. She is a fellow of The Institute of Directors, a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments UK (CISI) and the Chairperson of Women in Finance Nigeria, UK Chapter.

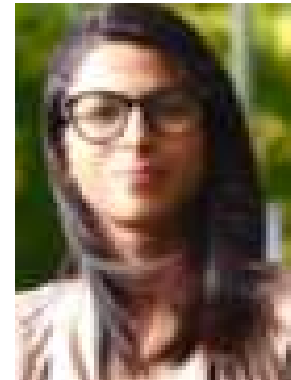


Dan Mewett

Dan is a technology leader with more than two decades of experience. Dan's career has progressed from coding, to technical leadership roles in major public sector projects (Transport for London, HMRC) to a global position in the financial industry (HSBC), and now to a strategic role within a large, diverse multinational conglomerate (Virgin Group). His technical experience covers all aspects of modern digital service delivery, including programming languages, software design, internet and cloud technologies, data, machine learning and artificial intelligence . This breadth of experience gives him a unique perspective on how technology can be applied across different industries.

**Kanika Sachdeva**

Kanika Sachdeva is a business leader with a Master's degree in Business Administration and a proven track record in franchise management, public service, business development and strategic growth. She has more than 16 years' experience in corporates and partnering with global brands like Shell & Papa John's. She served as a Borough Councillor for 5yrs, which has deepened her commitment to governance, community development, and creating lasting, positive change. She is also passionate about empowering young people, recognising them as the future of innovation and progress. She started practising Taekwondo at age 4, became a qualified trainer and earned a Black Belt, along with numerous medals and accolades over the years. Her commitment to inclusion, diversity, and community values is reflected in her active participation in local community initiatives and her two-year tenure on the trustee board of Voluntary Action Reigate & Banstead (VARB).

**Elizabeth Tadd**

Liz Tadd retired in 2015 after nearly 40 years in the civil service as a statistician working in a number of departments including the Office for National Statistics, the Department for Work and Pensions and in her final 10 years the Department for Education. Liz is both a Governor at RAAS and a trustee of the Foundation.



Charlie Wates

Charlie is a chartered surveyor with many years' experience in the commercial property sector and was managing director of the company Needspace? for 15 years until early 2022. Charlie is a director of the Wates Group, a construction, residential development and property services business. In addition to being a trustee of the Foundation, Charlie is a governor at the Emanuel school.

**Ed Winter**

Ed spent nearly 50 years working in the commercial airline industry as both a pilot and in a range of senior management roles. His experience spans from the traditional full-service airline, BOAC / British Airways, through to one of the most successful low-cost airlines easyJet. He has successfully started two airlines, conducted a management buyout, a sale and led the integration of two airlines. Ed has now retired and is both a governor and a trustee of the Foundation.

