



DENBIGH SCHOOL

## Meet the Denbigh Local School Board of Governors

# Pen Portraits



# **Dominic Wood**

## **Chair of Governors**

### **Board Appointed Governor**



Dominic is a Director at BT, responsible for security governance. He has a very broad remit managing the security risks to BT (cyber, physical, IT, personnel etc.) in the UK and globally. Dominic's career in the security profession spans 25 years, where he has carried out a diverse set of security functions, in both an operational capacity, and is now in a governance and senior leadership position. He has extensive experience of team leadership and project delivery. Dominic is a graduate of Newcastle University (Geography BSc (Hons)).

Dominic has a child at Denbigh and he fully supports Denbigh's aims, principles and values. He believes that the provision of high quality curriculum teaching, that equally values academic attainment alongside the creative arts, PE, citizenships is key. This coupled with extra-curricular activities and opportunities enable students to build personal resilience and reach their full potential. Dominic was elected as a Parent Governor in 2021. He was made a Board Appointed Governor when elected as Chair of Governors in July 2024 and is the Safeguarding Assurance Governor for the Board.

# **Kirstin Pryor**

## **Vice Chair of Governors**

### **Parent Governor**

Kirstin is a parent of a student at Denbigh and is keen to support and contribute to the School's progress. Kirstin's background is in Finance, in which she has worked for over 20 years for an International Hotel Chain. She is currently Chair of Governors at Loughton School where her children attended and it's from that experience she developed a love of working with school staff to enrich children's lives. Kirstin is delighted to be part of the Denbigh Local School Board to help develop strategies to enhance the educational journey of each and every child and to make as many happy memories as possible for them. In her spare time, she manages her son's rugby team and is Treasurer of a local scout group. Kirstin was elected as a Parent Governor in February 2024. She was elected as Vice Chair of Governors in July 2024 and is the SEND Assurance Governor for the Board.

# Akhtar Jan

## Board Appointed Governor



Akhtar is a parent of three children studying at Denbigh and has a keen interest in ensuring that Denbigh School continues to excel and succeed. She has a BA Hons degree in Business and worked in the financial sector for 10 years. The majority of her career was spent in project management, people management, recruitment and training. Akhtar has extensive experience in time critical projects, producing and implementing development plans and driving businesses forward. Since the birth of her first child she has chosen to stay at home and raise her family. She has undertaken voluntary roles at her children's infant school and has been a parent governor previously. In this role she participated in an Ofsted inspection and played a key role in developing and implementing the School's Strategy Plan. She was also involved in the performance management role of the Governing Body in terms of senior staff. Akhtar has a strong Business and Finance background bringing with her skills in strategic development and performance management. She is the Curriculum & Achievement and Sixth Form Assurance Governor for the Board and has previously served as Chair of Governors.

## **Anthony Steed**

### **Headteacher**



**Anthony is on the Local School Board in his role as Headteacher, a role he was appointed to in September 2024. He joined Denbigh School in 2004 as a newly qualified teacher and has undertaken the leadership roles of Head of the Business & Computing Faculty, Assistant Head and Deputy Headteacher before his appointment as Headteacher.**

## Gill Molloy

### Staff Governor



Gill is from Lancashire and studied Home Economics with Dress & Textiles & Design & Planning at university in Manchester. After university, she moved to London working for Haymarket Publishing Ltd as an Accounts Manager. She then moved back to Lancashire, working as a Trainee Branch Manager for a Building Society in Preston. Marriage and a move to Hampshire followed while still working for the Building Society. Gill then took a career break to concentrate on building a family and also made the move to Milton Keynes. Gill has three sons. During this time she was a governor at her son's primary school. Gill then took the decision to enter teaching to show her boys the value of education. She joined Denbigh in June 2004 as an Unqualified Teacher whilst also studying for a PGCE with the Open University. She qualified in 2006 and became a Head of House in 2008. She was appointed Pupil Premium Champion in 2017 and added the role of Designated Teacher in 2018. Gill was re-elected as a staff Governor in 2022 by Denbigh staff and is the Board's Health & Safety and Careers Assurance Governor.

## Pradeep Narayanan Co-opted Governor



Pradeep is a Chartered Engineer & Civil Servant. He has a child at Denbigh School. He became a governor to give back the skills he has developed in his professional career to the community, as he believes that schools are at the centre of the community. Pradeep believes that school is so much more than academic learning and brings this ethos to his role as a Governor. The Pandemic taught him that life is short and using his valuable skills for the betterment of our future generation is a way of expressing his gratitude to the community. Pradeep was elected as a Co-opted Governor in April 2025 and is the Board's Pupil Premium Assurance Governor. He has previously served as a parent governor for four years.

## Russell Newham

### Parent Governor



Russell is a Director of the Energy Saving Trust. He is a member of the Trust's Remuneration Committee, acting as both company secretary and People Director. He is experienced in implementing leadership development and cultural transformation change programmes. Russell is qualified as a Chartered Expert in the Institute of Personnel and Development (MCIPD). He is also currently studying for an ILM5 qualification in coaching.

Russell is a parent governor who was elected to the Board in 2023. Russell is the Board's Staff Wellbeing Assurance Governor.



# Alexander Tidy

## Community Governor



Alexander is a Financial Risk Consultant specialising in Credit, Counterparty and ESG. He has extensive experience in restructuring and financial compliance. Currently he is employed by the British Business Bank and oversees the Bank's IFRS9 modelling. Alexander was appointed to the Board as a Community Governor in December 2023 and is the Board's Safeguarding Assurance Governor.

# Martin Leib

## Parent Governor



Martin was elected as a Parent Governor in 2024 and has a daughter and niece at the school. Martin runs a local charity and has a background in Marketing. Martin is very interested in supporting and improving the opportunities and outcomes of the students at Denbigh, enabling them to take on the responsibilities of themselves, their families and society. Martin is the Board's Pupil Premium Assurance Governor.

# Sukhi Gill

## Parent Governor



Sukhi is the Town Deal Investment Lead at Milton Keynes City Council. Working in the Economic Development Team, as project manager on the Town Deal Regeneration Programme, promoting inward investment and engaging with businesses to enhance the local economy.

With a legal and business background that includes studying law, working in the legal and financial service sectors to having run a consulting business, she brings valuable insights and skills to the parent governor role. She is a parent to a student in Year 10.

She is keen on sharing her expertise for the benefit of others, supporting the younger generation to achieve their aspirations. With a passion for academia as well as sports, she has managed a football team, netball team, and frequently volunteers at events across the City. She was elected as a Parent Governor in March 2025.

# Vanessa Taibo

## Parent Governor



Vanessa is a senior procurement and commercial strategy professional with over 20 years of experience in the financial services sector. Her expertise includes managing budgets, negotiating contracts, leading complex projects, and overseeing high-performing teams.

Originally from Latin America, Vanessa moved to the UK 20 years ago and holds a BA (Hons) in Business Administration as well as an MBA from Cranfield University. She is passionate about education and believes strongly in giving back to the community.

As a parent with one child currently at Denbigh and another hopefully joining in the future, Vanessa is committed to contributing her experience to help the School make informed decisions, use its resources wisely, and continue delivering high-quality education for all students. She was elected as a Parent Governor in March 2025.



## **Dr. Girinath G. Pillai**

### **Community Governor**

Girinath specializes in computational drug discovery, leveraging AI & machine learning to identify promising drug candidates for human diseases. He is an integral part of a team of 1200 members involved in the entire drug discovery pipeline. Girinath also serves as a mentor to several schools in India through NITI Ayog & supports Science graduate students globally. Originally from India, Girinath has pursued higher studies in the US, Estonia, & Finland before moving to the UK three years ago. He holds a PhD in Chemistry & is passionate about educating underprivileged children in his home country, actively supporting community initiatives. His unique skill set in mentoring school students & liaising with school management brings valuable insights & thoughtful questions to his role as a Community Governor. He is also a parent of two children.

As a Community Governor, Girinath is committed to contributing ideas & suggestions that support the School, Trust, and teachers in making informed decisions. His goal is to ensure the delivery of high-quality education & the development of well-rounded individuals for all students graduating from Denbigh. Girinath was appointed as a Community Governor in April 2025.

# Louise Conway

## Staff Governor



Born and raised in France, Louise moved to London when she was 19 whilst still studying Anglo-Saxon Language, Literature and History at the University of Aix-Marseille, with an emphasis on Medieval History. After three years tutoring in Hungary, she returned to the UK in 2016 to train to become a History teacher – in London first, before moving to Milton Keynes in 2019. At Denbigh, she has developed her practice to teach Philosophy, Religion and Ethics as well as History and has co-founded the Humanities After-School Club. Beyond the Humanities department, Louise is interested in promoting literacy & oracy and cross-curricular learning; and became a Staff Governor in 2024. Louise is married and mother to a little boy. Louise is the School's Enrichment & Trips Assurance Governor.