

Saint John's

college school

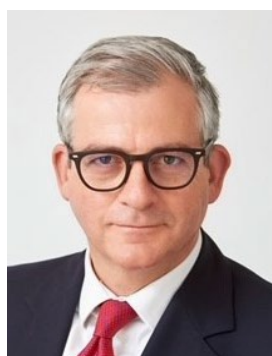
St John's College School Governors



Lindsay Dodsworth, Chair

Governor since Sept 2021

Lindsay Dodsworth is a Non-Executive Director of an investment trust and a venture capital trust and a trustee of Goodenough College. She was formerly the Chair of a Family Office which she set up with the founders and oversaw the evolution of its business and charitable activities. She read music at Trinity Hall, Cambridge before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Adviser with Price Waterhouse and then became an international tax partner at EY. Lindsay relaxes by playing the piano and Javanese gamelan music, singing in choirs and particularly loves walking the dog on a Norfolk beach. Lindsay is married to John Willis, founder and Chief Ambassador of Power2Inspire, and their two daughters are former pupils of the school.



Patrick Blakesley KC, Vice Chair

Governor since Sept 2018

Mr Blakesley is a barrister and was appointed Queen's Counsel in February 2018. He practises at Crown Office Chambers, where he specialises in catastrophic personal injury and fatal accident claims, product liability, and insurance. He read Classics at Balliol College, Oxford, before taking a law conversion course at City University and qualifying as a barrister in 1993.

Mr Blakesley is married to Polly, Professor in Russian and European Art at Cambridge University, and their son and daughter are former pupils of the school.



Gordon Cameron OBE

Governor since Sept 2022

Gordon spent over 25 years as a CFO in the pharmaceutical/biotech industry, in both public and private equity-backed companies, before recently taking on several Chair/NonExecutive roles. He read Economics at St Andrews University, before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with Ernst & Young. He then spent six years in investment banking, primarily with Rothschild, before moving into industry. He was awarded an OBE in 2004 for services to the British biotechnology industry in the US.

Gordon lives near Cambridge with his wife, Rosie and they have four daughters, all of whom are former pupils of the school.

	Christopher Dell Governor since November 2025 Group Strategic Communications Director Chris is interested in the how ideas, creativity, and storytelling drive business development and growth. Now at Titan Wealth, Chris has spent over 30 years in the communications industry building brands and delivering practical internal and external marketing and communication campaigns. He has extensive comms experience drawn from working for companies in many sectors, in the UK and internationally. Away from work, he enjoys a rural life near Cambridge with his wife and dog. He is an Hon Group Captain in the RAF as a member of 601 (County of London) Squadron where he has worked with the Red Arrows; mentored Officers; and offers broad communications advice as required.
	Professor Tuomas Knowles Governor since June 2024 Tuomas is the 1920 Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of St John's College. His research interests are focused on biomolecular interactions in health and disease. Tuomas is married to Susanne, and they have four children.
	Shona Norman – Governor for Safeguarding Governor since July 2026 Shona is Head of Woodbridge School, a co-educational independent day and boarding school for pupils aged 4-18, a position that she has held since 2020. Before stepping into the role of Head, she has been Senior Deputy, Deputy Head Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead as well as a Teacher of English. A graduate of both University of London and University of Cambridge (where she completed her PGCE and Med), her passion lies in student welfare inside and outside of the classroom, to ensure that every child is understood. In her free time, Shona loves nothing more than reading, cooking and taking her labrador for long walks along the Suffolk coastline.



David Palmer

Governor since November 2025

David studied at Loughborough University before teaching in the state system, and in Argentina. He joined SJCS in 1995 and fulfilled several academic and pastoral managerial roles including that of Deputy Head for a brief time before retirement in 2020. He is interested in the psychosocial aspects of learning and for his MA in Childhood, David conducted research at St John's mapping how dialogue between teenagers influences the development of emotional intelligence. He is a member of Lucy Cavendish College Cambridge and is concluding an MSt in Art History. As a middle-distance athlete, David competed at international level.

David is married to Amanda, who also taught at SJCS; they have three children and three grandchildren.



Jon Rudoe

Governor since November 2025

Jon is currently co-founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Nous, a business that helps UK households manage their bills. Previously he was on the Operating Board of Sainsbury's, where he led the Online business and Technology function. Prior to that he was part of the team that built Ocado, where he led what became Ocado Retail. His early career was spent in management consulting and venture capital. Jon read Geography at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he was a Choral Scholar, and has an MBA with High Distinction from the Harvard Business School.

He is a keen golfer, and is married with three school-age children.



Josh Solanki

Governor since November 2025

HR Director | Executive Coach | Consultant

Josh Solanki is a senior HR leader with over 25 years of experience across Telecoms, IT, Pharmaceuticals, Manufacturing, and Engineering. She has held board-level roles and led global HR functions for private equity-backed, FTSE-listed, and high-growth businesses across Europe, the Far East, USA, and India.

She works closely with leadership teams to align people strategy with business objectives, driving transformation, performance, and growth. Josh is also an accredited coach and certified mediator, known for her pragmatic and commercially focused approach.

She holds a BA (Hons) in Business Studies (HR Management) from Middlesex University and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (FCIPD).



Stephen Taylor

Governor since June 2024

Stephen is Bursar of Uppingham School, a large independent boarding school in Rutland. He has held the post since 2002 during which he has worked for three Headmasters and three Chairs of Trustees and overseen a major building programme. Before that he ran businesses in the UK, Africa and USA in the food manufacturing, leisure, gem-mining and jewellery industries either on behalf of others or on his own account.

He read History and Law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG. He is also a Trustee of the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust, and his two teenage boys are currently at Uppingham School.

The Governors can be contacted by email at governors@sjcs.co.uk or by post, care of the Chair of Governors, St John's College School, 73 Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9AB. All Governors have responsibility for the whole school, including the Early Years Foundation Stage.