









## MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

### GOVERNORS' BIOGRAPHIES

	<p><b>Mrs Sue Williamson, Chair of Governors</b></p> <p>I am the Chief Executive of SSAT (Schools, students and teachers network) - a national organisation that works closely with schools. I visit schools every week to see the work they do with young people. I was a Headteacher of a school in Lincolnshire for eight years. I am a Trustee of Football Beyond Borders – a charity that works with key stage 3 students in danger of being permanently excluded. I am passionate about education and was pleased to be appointed Chair of Trustees for CAM MAT and Chair of Governors at Melbourn Village College. Covid-19 caused disruption for the education of students and we are stepping up our efforts to ensure that we provide outstanding education and opportunities for personal development for everybody.</p>
	<p><b>Mrs Janet Banks</b></p> <p>I am a farmers wife, my parents also farmed, as does my son and I have lived in the local area all my life. As a member of the Cambridge - area MAT, I was asked to join the Governing body at Melbourn. I do not live in the MVC catchment area, so my 3 children attended Comberton VC and I have two grandchildren there now. I love watching rugby and have supported Cambridge Rugby Club for almost 50 years!</p>
	<p><b>Dr. Rita Monson</b></p> <p>I have lived in the Cambridge region since 2004, and though I am originally from New Brunswick in Canada, I attended University at MIT in Boston before settling in the UK. I have a Bachelors degree in Mathematics from MIT and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge. I am currently a research scientist at the University, studying the interactions bacteria have with each other and their response to the environment. I have been a fellow of Churchill College at Cambridge University since 2007 and have been heavily involved in admissions, teaching, academic support and more recently as Dean of the College. I am passionate about finding ways to increase access to Higher Education, a process that begins early in education.</p>



	<p><b>Ms Clare Rogers</b></p> <p>I live in Shepreth. I have taught maths at MVC on an off for about eight years. Two of my children have been through MVC and my youngest is now in year 10. I am a firm believer that at a small school like Melbourn Village College, Everybody really Is Somebody and as staff, we try to help each student to be the best that they can be.</p>
	<p><b>Mrs Becky Jackson</b></p> <p>I have worked at Melbourn Village College since 2014 in varying roles. I am currently the Cover Manager but I have also just taken on a role in the Alternative Provision supporting students who cannot access all their mainstream lessons. I have really enjoyed my time at the College so far. I have lived in Fowlmere for just over 26 years (it was meant to be a 3yr stop gap!) my husband has successfully run his computer company from Fowlmere since 1997. My two youngest sons attended MVC and since leaving have both flourished with their chosen careers. One of my passions is Formula 1, but I also love animals and we do have quite a few at home to keep me busy.</p>
	<p><b>Mrs Susan van de Ven</b></p> <p>I've lived a few miles from MVC since moving to the UK in 1988. My three children all attended MVC, providing each with academic spark and rigour, as well as friendships to help them move on successfully to sixth form and beyond. Many other milestones took place at MVC, including Melbourn Dynamo football matches, learning to swim at McSplash, and getting involved in after-school activities. Everything to do with British education has been new to me. I grew up in the Middle East and California, attending French and American schools. I hold an doctorate in Education and taught primary school in the UK for a short while, including British history which my pupils witnessed me learn as we went along. Something I love about MVC is the adventurousness of learning multiple languages and embracing an interest in the outside world, especially in the uncertain times we live. MVC's motto, 'Everybody is somebody,' is also about empathy, including perspectives on other lives in other places. In 2003 I became a UK citizen and stood in local elections. Ever since then I've been a District or County Councillor. I campaign for local transport improvements and help lead the County health and social care portfolio. This has been a huge privilege and I've made more friends and learned more about our community in this way than any other.</p>



	<p><b>Mr Kim Popat</b></p> <p>I'm an Engineering Manager with 30 years of experience in the Electronics industry. My work involves applying a mix of people and technical skills in the design and manufacture of electronic products. I studied Physics and Electronics at Lancaster University and started my working life in Broadcasting. I moved into my current field of Mobile Communications in 2000 having done a stint in Professional Audio (designing equipment for use in Rock and Roll tours). A Resident of Foxton since 2000, all three of my children attended MVC where they grew into the capable and self-directed people they now are. In my spare time I play in a band, and I am asked from time to time to provide technical and backstage support for amateur dramatics shows in the village.</p>
	<p><b>Dr. Sonja Dunbar</b></p> <p>I am a plant scientist at the University of Cambridge where I specialises in teaching first- and second-year undergraduates. I conduct research into scaffolding scientific skill development and I am passionate about finding new ways to engage learners and bring topics to life. I have lived in Cambridge since returning to undertake my PhD in 2012, and originally from Stevenage. I am also a fellow of Churchill College where I have been the Admissions Tutor for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Natural Sciences since 2019 and I am also involved in academic and pastoral support. Coming to Cambridge from a school unfamiliar with sending students to Oxbridge, I am passionate about raising aspirations and outreach.</p>
	<p><b>Mrs Katharine Carruthers OBE</b></p> <p>I am the Strategic Director for UCL Institute of Education's delivery of the Department for Education's Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP); the MEP is delivered in partnership with the British Council. I play a leading role in supporting the development of Mandarin Chinese on the mainstream curriculum in secondary schools across England. I am an experienced teacher and examiner of Chinese. I am the series editor of the textbooks for teaching Chinese for 11-16 year olds, and wrote the specification for Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese. Over the last decade, I have led the development of the IOE's PGCE Mandarin pathway, working with a cohort of approximately 20 PGCE students annually training to teach Mandarin Chinese. My research interests are around the teaching and learning of Chinese as a foreign language in schools (most recent publication Mandarin Chinese Teacher Education; IOE Press), the notion of intercultural competence in Chinese and UK schools and globalisation and language policy. I am UCL's Pro-Vice-Provost (East Asia). I received an OBE in the 2018 New Year Honours list for services to Education.</p>



**Mr Jose Hales**

I have lived in Melbourn for almost 20 years. I am married to Jeannie and my grown up children both attended Melbourn Village College. Having served in the Royal Navy, I then became a London Fire Fighter and was in the unit responsible for controlling major incidents until my retirement. I have been a District Councillor for Melbourn ward since 2010 and a Parish Councillor between 2009 and 2016. I have been involved in several village initiatives, including the delivery of the Melbourn Community Hub building. I sit on the Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD) committee which provides activities and support for young people across five villages within South Cambs. MAYD recently won an award for 'outstanding youth initiative' at the 2016 South Cambs District Council community awards. I am also a trustee of Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme. I am from a family with a strong sense of community. My father was a parish councillor in Oxfordshire following his retirement and my mother helps children with reading difficulties and is active in the WI. My sister-in-law is a head teacher in Essex and my wife a mobile warden helping the mobility impaired. As a school governor I hope to add value with my professional and civic experience. I am also keen to engage with staff and students to work together to build an excellent, safe and inspiring future for Melbourn Village College.