

## Meet the Governors



**Mr Simon Sanger-Anderson**

Chair of Board  
Member Appointed  
Trustee/Governor  
Member of Trust

I have been a governor since the early days of Clyst Vale becoming an Academy. Both my children came here and my wife and I chose CVCC because of its clear expression of a caring ethos and shaping young people to be well rounded, in addition to achieving the best they were capable of academically. I think those core values have become even more apparent in recent times and have enabled us to do our very best for students in the difficult years of 2020 and 2021. As a governor it has been an honour to be a small part of shaping that ethos.



**Dr Kevin Bawn**  
Principal/Ex Officio

Originally from Dorset, I completed a BA and a PhD in History at Reading University, before gaining my PGCE at Oxford. Eight schools later, including a Deputy Headship at Exmouth and a Headship in Leicestershire, I became Principal at Clyst Vale in 2001. This is therefore my 24th year of being a Governor or Trustee. All three of my children attended Devon comprehensive schools, and are respectively completing a doctorate, working in digital copywriting and working in a university. I remain passionate about education and the potential of young people and continue to teach. Out of College, my interests include History, reading, travel (when possible!), sport in general and watching theatre – I like musicals!

Clyst Vale is a fantastic College with a boundless 'human' ethos. I have been very proud of our successes in Rights Respecting Schools and promoting human rights in general. We have had our ups and downs since I started here in 2001, but have maintained that ethos throughout, while striving to achieve the best outcomes possible for our students.



**Mr Paul Colin**  
Co-Opted  
Governor/Trustee

As a long-standing member of teaching staff, now retired, and former Staff Governor, Clyst Vale has been a big part of my life and I am delighted to now return as a co-opted Governor. After a period working in cancer research, I started my teaching career in Hertfordshire and then moved to Cyst Vale in 1990. I was second in Science and then Head of Science at Cyst Vale before becoming the College timetabler and latterly Assistant Principal. I hope to be able use my knowledge of the College, the curriculum and wider College life to make a positive contribution to the work of the Governing Body.



**Mrs Sue Diffey**  
Member Appointed  
Governor/Trustee

My career as a teacher spanned 36 years and I retired as Deputy Principal of a large Devon Community College in 2016. I was proud to be part of a team that achieved five consecutive "outstanding" inspection reports. As a Governor I can continue my passion for education and I still enjoy being part of a process that allows young people to realise their potential.

Although now retired I still find time for travel and choral singing.



**Mr David Edmondson**  
Parent Governor

I have worked in education for 20+ years. I worked in a secondary school for 12 years as teacher, tutor, Head of House, teacher coach and SENCo and for the last 6 years I have been working in education for the local authority. I am passionate about the opportunities that a quality, broad and engaging education provides for children and young people and would like to support CVCC in continuing to work towards this goal. When I was Head of House, our house mission statement was Promote Participation, Nurture Potential, Celebrate Success, and this continues to be my vision.



**Mrs Rebekah Kyffin**  
Parent Governor

I am a parent just starting my journey at Clyst Vale, as my son started in September.

I bring over 10 years' experience in social care working with children, 3 years as Chair of the PTA at Brampford Speke Primary School, and 5 years as a self-employed Maker. I would love to support the Senior Leadership team to nurture wholesome, creative environments for all children to learn, and have equal opportunities to get the most out of their time at school.



**Mrs Sophy Norris**  
Co-opted/Trustee

I became a Parent Governor of Clyst Vale December 2017. I have one child at the school already and one soon to join. I am a full time working mother, with a job that involves a lot of travel, so I thought hard about the commitments of becoming a Governor before putting myself forward. The opportunity however, to become involved in the development of Clyst Vale, a school I have been overwhelmingly impressed with since my daughter joined, was an opportunity I simply had to take.

I believe in a level and fair playing field for all children whilst they are at school, a place where each child is treated as an individual and is encouraged to be the best they can be. This quality shines through at Clyst Vale, I see it my own child, in my child's friends and I have witnessed it in the teachers and staff at the school. Clyst Vale is a strong community school, with a strong community heartbeat. It is this sense of shared community that I look forward to learning more about, encouraging and fostering over the coming months and years.

I read English Literature at Manchester University which I followed with an MA in English Literature at Vanderbilt University in the USA. Since I graduated I have been involved in marketing and communications. I moved to Devon with my family about 12 years ago, but continue to work mainly in London, focusing on national and international awareness campaigns for a range of clients – from travel businesses to political causes. I specialise in helping organisations strategically plan their future communications plans and help them better articulate their messages and values to their relevant audiences. I hope to bring some of these skills to Clyst Vale.



**Mrs Dorf Ruscoe**  
Member Appointed  
Governor/Trustee

I joined the Governing Board in 2016 although my initial involvement with the College began many years previously whilst helping in a backstage capacity, with the performing arts events. It was during this time I gained real insight into the how the College functioned, but most significantly, I became aware of the overall culture and ethos of the College. I observed a truly caring community which has been even more evident during the current Covid pandemic.

My own professional career has been mainly focused on Primary Care Nursing and Higher Education, working strategically both internationally and nationally. Prior to my retirement in 2012 I led the General Practice Unit at Plymouth University where I still retain an Honorary Associate Professorship. I also continue in my role as an Accreditation Assessor of Educational Programmes for the Royal College of General Practitioners.

My husband and I have lived in East Devon for the past 30 years and I am very committed to helping the College in any way I can during these very challenging and changing times for education. My eldest grandson has just joined the College in Year 7!



**Mr Will Tipper**  
Parent Governor

After studying law and specialising in environmental law I've worked on environmental policy issues including dispute resolution and the introduction and implementation of new legislation and government guidance. I have two daughters, one in year 7 and one in her final year at university who previously studied at Clyst Vale. I'm keen to combine my experience of having children at Clyst Vale and the skills I've developed during my career to help the school to adapt to future opportunities and challenges and ensure that students' time at the school builds pride and confidence in their potential.

**Mr Steven Whitfield**  
Parent Governor

Hailing from Yorkshire, I kicked off my career as a joiner and swiftly climbed the professional ladder, attaining the role of factory manager at the age of 21. A shift into Logistics and subsequent qualification as an electrician added diverse skills to my repertoire. Then came an unexpected twist—a job opportunity beckoned from sunny Devon! Despite bidding a reluctant farewell to Yorkshire puddings and a comforting cup of tea, I embraced a new chapter in the picturesque Southwest.

Armed with budgeting finesse and a knack for finding bargains, I braced myself for the higher living costs of Devon. From scouring thrift shops for deals to discovering affordable ways to explore the breath taking countryside, I was determined to stretch my Yorkshire wallet in the realm of cream teas and sandy beaches.

Fast forward to today, where I've dedicated a significant portion of my working life as the Operations Director at Postscript Books. My schedule is filled, but my free time is dedicated to pursuits like following football, walking the dog, paddleboarding, kayaking, and camping. Above all, I cherish moments spent with my wife, Jayne, our daughter Leona, and our dog Archie.

During the past six years, I proudly served as the Chair of Governors at the Cedar Tree Federation. Recognizing the importance of quality education in a secure and nurturing environment. I then decided to contribute my experience to Clyst Vale Community College, where my daughter is enrolled. Ensuring that all children and young adults at Clyst Vale receive the best education, in a safe environment remains a paramount commitment for me.