



# The Blue Coat School

## Board of Trustees



### Chair of Trustees

#### Professor Simone Krüger Bridge

Simone joined The Blue Coat School's Board of Trustees in 2022. She is a senior academic working in Higher Education for over twenty years with a passion for academic excellence in teaching and learning, research and writing.

Qualified in business and banking operations in the early 1990s, Simone moved to Liverpool in her 20s and has since gained academic qualifications of the highest levels from prestigious UK universities. Since 2007, she embarked on a successful academic career at Liverpool John Moores University where she has worked as a Senior Lecturer, Programme Leader, Reader and Committee Chair, building a wide-ranging track record as an academic, writer, editor, educational leader, guest speaker and in executive service roles for learned societies and organisations.

Simone strongly believes in civic citizenship and is passionate to give something back to the local community, while making a real difference to academically gifted children and young people, including those from BAME and other disadvantaged backgrounds, and to support them and The Blue Coat School to achieve their very best potential in life and to face the critical challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



#### Patrick Adamson

Patrick is a Deputy Headteacher at a Grammar School in Wirral. He originally studied Mathematics and Computer Science before working as a Software Engineer on the Seawolf and Rapier anti-aircraft missile systems and on the sonar system for the Trident submarines. He became a Mathematics teacher in his early thirties and has worked in a variety of schools in the Northwest. He became Head of Mathematics at Whitby High School in Ellesmere Port, and Assistant Headteacher at Christleton High School in Chester, where he led the school's specialism in Maths, Business and Computing. Here, he created, amongst other things, an interactive Maths trail in the school grounds, which included a giant Tower of Hanoi puzzle and a walkable recreation of the Konigsberg Bridge problem.

Patrick completed a Masters' degree in Educational Leadership and Management at the University of Liverpool before joining his current school. Patrick's passion in education has been to develop schools that inspire and challenge young people to grow and learn in a caring environment, which develops independent learning through a wide range of enriching experiences both in and out of the classroom. As well as Maths Patrick loves climbing Munros and listening to BBC 6 Music, both of which feature regularly in his assemblies.





## Paul Chadwick

Paul is a digital health leader with significant experience in leading services and managing large scale digital, data and technology transformation programmes in the health and care sector.

Throughout his career he has managed substantial operational portfolio's and has been a strategic decision maker. He has worked effectively within complex organisations and governance frameworks, been financially accountable for large budgets, and gained a broad set of skills and experience that he uses to develop successful teams.

With an MSc in Technology Management and a PgDip in Digital Health Leadership, his passion is developing business strategies that embrace innovation and drive technology enabled change.

Paul has two sons, one attending Blue Coat, lives in the local community where he is a grassroots football coach and is an active runner in his spare time.



## Seán Fitzsimmons

Seán is an Old Blue, having been a student at The Blue Coat School from 1998-2005.

With a background in Linguistics and Education, Seán is currently an Assistant Headteacher at a successful primary school in North Liverpool.

After completing his undergraduate degree in English and Linguistics at the University of Wolverhampton, Seán pursued a successful career in translation and interpreting. Proficient in several European languages and a nationally recognised British Sign Language interpreter, Seán's work has taken him all over the world, including having the privilege to work with leaders of world faiths such as the Pope and the Dalai Lama.

With over twenty year's involvement with the Deaf community, Seán has worked as an interpreter in many settings and has a wealth of experience across a broad range of employment and community sectors. Passionate about Special Educational Needs and Disability, he has continued his work with such groups and, after training to become a teacher, now works as an Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Manager with responsibility for Safeguarding, Attendance, Behaviour & Mental Health and Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. As a school leader, governor and trustee, Seán has a strong commitment to improving outcomes for all learners. He continues to speak in schools and colleges about LGBT+ issues and is an active campaigner for equality and diversity.

In his wider interests, Seán is an approved foster carer for rescue dogs while they await being adopted into their forever homes. This is a bitter-sweet experience, but one he finds hugely fulfilling.

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## **Ben Giles**

Ben is a construction project leader and for the last 15 years has worked for Laing O'Rourke, a multi-national engineering and construction company. Ben has worked in both the UK and Canada, managing a wide range of multi-million pounds projects including infrastructure and major hospitals and has recently completed the organisation's executive development programme.

Ben graduated from UMIST in 2002 with a degree in management and worked as a self-employed sound engineer in the music industry before moving into construction and engineering. This has given him insight into the value of transferrable skills such as STEM subjects and the importance of life-long learning for the fast and ever changing society in which we live.

Ben is an advocate for developing and mentoring young people in construction and has a strong interest in fostering the skills and experiences that will allow the next generation to thrive and succeed in their future careers. He applied for the Trustee position to give back to his community and share his knowledge to help develop leaders of the future.

Ben grew up in Sheffield before settling with his family in Liverpool. He lives in Aigburth and has two children, one of whom attends Bluecoat. Outside of work and supporting the children in their activities he also enjoys cycling and live music.



## **Jonathan Han**

With a background in civil & structural engineering, his career has taken him across the UK and abroad, before recently settling back in Liverpool.

He is a Chartered Civil Engineer with extensive cross-functional experience in business strategy, planning, commercial and project management - with expertise in technological innovation and data analytics.

After completing an MBA in Manchester several years ago, he is currently advising major UK infrastructure clients across various sectors as a management consultant within KPMG's Infrastructure Advisory Group.

In his spare time (in between juggling parenting duties), Jonathan continues to be an advocate in promoting the civil engineering industry and STEM with the Institution of Civil Engineers in order to help facilitate, mentor and encourage the next generation of young prosperous engineers.

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## Sam Myers

Sam is an Old Blue, having been a student at The Blue Coat School from 1993 – 2000.

After achieving his degree in Law and French from the University of Leicester, he went on to pursue a career in financial services.

For the last 14 years, Sam has worked as an Investment Manager for Tilney, working his way up to Director level in 2018. He manages money on behalf of a wide range of private clients and trusts and regularly attends trustee meetings in a professional capacity.

Sam reengaged with The Blue Coat School a few years ago and often supports the school with his time in various capacities such as careers events and prize giving.



## Anthony O'Brien

Tony is a qualified Architect, Partner and Board Director of a top 10, AJ100 Architectural, Masterplanning and Interior Design firm within the United Kingdom. He leads their regional office, which is based in Manchester, where he has developed many major projects across numerous sectors throughout the UK, Liverpool and the North West, including offices, residential, schools, colleges and higher education projects.

He has children in Blue Coat school and lives in the local community, having lived in Allerton for over 10 Years, where he is an active member of the parish of Bishop Eton and the local community. Through his children, Tony is also involved in numerous local sports groups, including running, football and MMA.



## Rukhsana Rasheed

Rukhsana joined the Trustee Board in June 2022. Her background is in corporate law, specialising in pension funds.

Rukhsana began her career at global law firm DLA Piper, where she acted for the biggest pension funds in the UK, representing employers and trustees. Her experience includes company acquisitions and disposals, all aspects of scheme mergers, reconstructions, wind-ups and pension litigation.

Rukhsana is a professional training consultant working with magic circle, U.S and top tier city firms. She also provides legal training to adjudicators appointed by the Pension Ombudsman.

Rukhsana has been involved in the current changes brought about in the legal profession, designed to address among other issues, inequality and lack of diversity.

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