



# The Blue Coat School

## Board of Trustees



### **Seán Fitzsimmons BA (Hons)** **Chair of Trustees**

Appointed: July 2023

Elected as Chair of Trustees May 2024

Email: [chairoftrustees@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:chairoftrustees@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

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. 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.



### **Patrick Adamson MA, BA (Hons)** **Vice Chair of Trustees**

Appointed: September 2020

Elected Vice Chair 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Email: [vicechair@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

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.

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**Paul Chadwick MSc, PgDip, BSc (Hons), CISM, MBCS  
Trustee**

Appointed: July 2023

Email: [p.chadwick@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:p.chadwick@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Paul is a digital health leader with significant experience in leading services and managing large scale digital, data and technology transformation and cyber security 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.

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**Ben Giles BSc (Hons)  
Trustee**

Appointed: August 2023

Email: [b.giles@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:b.giles@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

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 Meng (Hons), MBA, CEng, MICE  
Trustee**

Appointed: March 2022

Email: [j.han@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:j.han@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Jonathan is an Old Blue, with a career in civil and structural engineering, which 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.



**Dr Babu Kunadian, Honorary Clinical Professor  
Trustee (Parent)**

Appointed: April 2024

Email: [b.kunadian@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:b.kunadian@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Babu is an Interventional Cardiologist and Honorary Professor at the Chester Medical School, having worked with medical and other graduates for over 24 years, and been involved in their pastoral care, safeguarding and wellbeing. Babu has a Master's degree (MA) in clinical education and has undertaken, supervised and published research in clinical education. He is currently Clinical Director of Diagnostic and Clinical services, including oversight in finance, human resources and leading an effective team with vision and strategy. Babu has trained in leadership and completed the Oxford Executive Leadership Programme at the Oxford University. As a parent trustee, Babu is an advocate for the needs and concerns of parents, ensuring that parents voices are valued and heard at all times. In his day work, he collaborates with various stakeholders within the social care. As a visionary leader, Babu is keen to support School initiatives to provide best learning environment, working towards continuous improvement in what we do and how we do it, making real difference in our children's lives. Babu supports the Board to address challenges and improvement to get the very best environment for each child in our school to study and develop their talents and skills.



**Mrs Lisa Hayburn, NPQSL, DipSBM, ILM  
Trustee (Staff)**

Appointed June 2024

Email: [l.hayburn@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:l.hayburn@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Lisa is the Assistant Director of Resources and has worked at The Blue Coat School since 2007. She has also worked at Great Sankey High School and St Edwards College. With over 20 years of experience in educational support roles, Lisa brings a wealth of knowledge and a passion for fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment. She has considerable experience in managing school operations and has developed a secure understanding of school's logistical and administrative needs. This includes overseeing the operational aspects of school life, alongside leading on construction/developmental bids through to their successful completion. Lisa has gained three qualifications covering Leadership, an ILM in Leadership and Management, a Diploma in School Business Manager (DSBM) and a National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership (NPQ SL). Her focus as a trustee is to advocate for the needs and well-being of all support staff, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes.



**Sam Myers LLB (Hons), Chartered FCSI  
Trustee**

Appointed: September 2020

Email: [s.myers@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:s.myers@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

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. Sam has worked as an Investment Manager for Evelyn Partners (formerly Tilney) since 2006 and he was appointed to the position of Partner in 2022. He manages investment portfolios on behalf of a wide range of private clients and trusts and regularly attends trustee meetings in a professional capacity. Following his positive experience at the school as a pupil, Sam welcomed the opportunity to help shape the continued success of the school for current and future students. In addition to his duties with the main Trust Board, Sam is also the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee. Sam is married and has two sons and, when he is not supporting them in their various extra-curricular activities, he is a keen runner and sometime triathlete.



**Anthony O'Brien RIBA, BA(Hons), Grad Dip Arch**  
**Trustee (Parent)**

Appointed: September 2022

Email: [a.obrien@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:a.obrien@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

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 LLB (Hons)**  
**Trustee**

Appointed: June 2022

Email: [r.rasheed@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:r.rasheed@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Rukhsana joined the Trustee Board in June 2022. Her background is in corporate law, specialising in pension funds. Rukhsana began her career at DLA Piper, a global top 10 law firm, where she acted for the biggest pension funds in the UK, representing national and multi-national corporate entities and professional trustees. Her experience includes company acquisitions and disposals, all aspects of scheme mergers, reconstructions, wind-ups and pension litigation. Rukhsana is also a professional training consultant, committed to training the next generation of legal professionals. Having had a child attend The Blue Coat School, Rukhsana joined as a trustee to contribute to the school community and its continued success.

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## **Mr Simon Shipgood, Trustee (Staff)**

Appointed June 2024

Email: [s.shipgood@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:s.shipgood@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Simon joined Blue Coat as a newly qualified teacher in September 1995 having previously studied Mathematics at Durham University (1990 – 1993,) completed a PGCE at Sheffield Hallam University (1994 – 1995,) and spent a year working for a parcel firm (1993 – 1994,) which allowed him to learn and memorise every UK Postcode.

Throughout a long stay at Blue Coat, Simon has held the positions of Key Stage 4 Year Head (2 Years,) Head of Maths (8 years,) and Assistant Headteacher (15 years,) Simon currently has responsibility for Student Options and producing the School timetable.

Away from Blue Coat, Simon enjoys playing Chess and going for long walks along the Coast. Simon is a staunch Supporter of Liverpool FC, where he has been a Season Ticket holder for over 30 years, and a devoted Roman Catholic, attending Mass each week in the City's Metropolitan Cathedral.

Simon Joined the Trust board in June 2024, as a Staff Trustee, and is looking forward to using his long-time experience of Blue Coat to help and support the Board in governing in the interests of all Blue Coat stakeholders.