



# Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

*Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand*



Headteacher: Mrs Rachael Foster

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10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Following on from Rachel Chan's letter sent to you on 20<sup>th</sup> October, we are writing to introduce ourselves as the new Co-chairs of the school's governing board.

## Ellie Brown



I have been on the governing board since January 2020. I am one of a 'finance monitoring pair' jointly with our Local Authority governor and Vice chair, Steve Lloyd, and as such have been involved in monitoring school budget setting, financial compliance and reporting and other finance related activities. However, as a governing board we act collectively on all matters and I have been very interested and involved in all areas of governance at Lady J. I have really enjoyed being a governor and having the chance to come into school and hear from the staff, children and the whole school community. I am now very pleased and proud to be Co-chair of our wonderful governing board and to have the opportunity to continue to be involved in the school's amazing journey.

Outside of school, I live in Wye and I am a Tax director in EY's Transaction tax team based in London. I have three children at the school, Genevieve in Woodpeckers, Audra in Parrots and Beatrice in Butterflies.

## James Coumbe



I've been on the governing board since November 2018, first as a parent governor and then, since November 2022, as a co-opted governor. Over that time my role has primarily involved monitoring the school's approach to using pupil premium and sports premium funding, and supporting the wider work of the board. It has been a real privilege to work with such a fantastic school community over the last few years and I look forward to being able to continue to support the school as Co-chair.

Like Ellie, I also live in Wye, and I work as part of the Strategy, Design and Insight Service for Camden Council in London. My daughter Naomi is in Woodpeckers (Y6) and my son Conrad is in Hedgehogs (Y1).

## Thank you Rachel!

Rachel Chan first appeared at our governing Board meeting in March 2020 (on Zoom!), joining us directly as Chair and at the beginning of the first lockdown with all the challenges that brought. She is absolutely dedicated to the children, staff, leadership and the entire school community and has led the Governing board through a time of great change. She is a force



of nature, with a never-ending energy, drive and commitment which is an inspiration and example to us all. The impact Rachel has had cannot be underestimated and she will be very sorely missed by the governing board. Thank you Rachel!

### Co-chairing

It is becoming more common for governing boards to have Co-chairs rather than a single Chair of governors and there are many benefits to this. As well as enabling us to share the workload, it also enables an additional layer of challenge between us, additional support for the school and the governing board and a broader range of skills and aptitudes to draw on. To contact us, please email [chair@ladyj.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chair@ladyj.kent.sch.uk).

We wish you all the very best for a fantastic term ahead.

*Ellie and James*

