

St Matthew Academy Parent Nomination Statements

Mr Lenin Jacome

No statement received

Ms Ayesha Lahai-Taylor

Hello all! My name is Ayesha Lahai- Taylor and I have been a resident in Lewisham my whole life. I have two sons; one is in primary school and the other attends SMA Secondary. My background consists of working in housing and construction with my recent role in Project Management for a small association in the education sector. I was previously a parent governor at my sons School for 1 term (2014-2019) which has added to my experience and knowledge that I can provide as a parent governor. Overall, I am extremely passionate about my community and actively participate in local politics, which will be an asset for the success of SMA.

We live in a diverse borough with the population consisting of 46% BME and of this figure, 76% of the school population being BME. One of the council's commitment is to recruit more BME governors and that is where I will fit in. It is important that there is representation of diverse views and experience on matters such as teaching, learning and resources. I can commit my time and effort to be an active parent governor and apply my skills and experience of sitting on committees and forums. This will be a great asset to the SMA community, especially with my knowledge of the borough and being in a position to make decisions that will be in the best interest of those within this community. Ultimately, collective responsibility will ensure that SMA will continue to strive to have the best education and resources available to the pupils and parents of SMA.

Ms Martina Maurer

I am mum to Phoebe and Lieselotte who just joined year 7 at SMA. As a secondary school teacher myself I have a great understanding for the needs of schools, students and parents likewise. I have been an active contributor in the schools I've worked at to develop parent/teacher communities and support systems for members of the school community who are in need of it. As a teacher I used to be a member of the disciplinary panel and was involved in setting up support groups for parents, students and colleagues. I am a strong believer that if schools and parents collaborate it makes for a stronger, better and happier learning environment.

At my girls' previous schools, I volunteered as a maths tutor through a tutoring scheme set up by the local council, a reading buddy for early years reading and came on school trips when support was needed. I also was an active member of the PTA. I believe I could add immediate value as a parent governor helping SMA on its path to becoming an outstanding school, academically as well as a happy and friendly place for children, their families and staff.

Ms Anjali Nair

My son, Aarav Nair, attends Year 7 at SMA and my daughter is in Year 6 at Brindishe Manor. I have lived from 2005-2011 in London and then from 2011-2019 in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) before returning to the UK. I have worked in the Amsterdam International Community School (AICS) and was also elected to be the primary school parent representative. For the past 2 years I have been working part-time at Brindishe Green primary school. I would like to become a Governor as I bring a lot of practical experience to the job.

1. My father being a Colonel in the Indian Army resulted in my education was spread across different educational institutions. This has given me a real world knowledge of diverse practices (both good and bad)
2. Having served as an elected representative at AICS, I have knowledge of driving educational excellence as well as guiding complex tasks such as setting up a new school campus
3. I am a firm believer in God. While people may choose different names for their God, I maintain that each of the world's great religions, such as Christianity or Hinduism, are about compassion, humility, service and goodness. My ideal is to have children learn about different faiths so that they can appreciate the similarities rather than growing up focused on the differences
4. During the pandemic, I took part in or led activities to give back to the community such as baking for the NHS and Bin Collectors. I believe these activities need to be continued even post pandemic and would like to implement them, where feasible, as community caring from SMA

I have a wealth of ideas gathered over the years on fostering inclusiveness and promoting holistic learning. I believe while the focus should be academic excellence, an equally vital role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow is by building character. That is what I will try to help SMA achieve as a Governor

Ms Chery Nguyen

With a genuine heart and passion to contribute towards improving the excellence here at SMA. I am thrilled to hear that such a role has come up. My name is Chery and I am mother to Ponyo (YR1) I have an extensive range of educational experience facilitating art; at both primary and secondary level. With the opportunity to creatively partner with one of the UK's largest academy trust REACH2; to design visual precepts that are currently and successfully being used across their schools. Working in outstanding and private school settings has truly given me valuable knowledge into the expectations of educational excellence. I intend to glean from my experience at working in Caterham Private School and Tidemill Academy to inspire ideas that will help raise standards and quality of education here at SMA. My own educational journey from secondary began in Haberdashers' Aske's through to London College of Fashion and onto achieving a BA Hons in Graphic Design Illustration, at London College of Communication. I deeply value education and I'm compelled to play an active role in helping SMA and parents provide every chance of educational success for our children. Resulting in positive transformation within them, our families and our society as a whole. My job as an illustrator and art facilitator requires me to constantly be thinking about how to creatively engage children to stimulate curiosity and develop confidence. I work primarily designing for children and one of my main clients is Nickelodeon. Along with a passion to work closely in my local community delivering creative workshops. I am an advocate for both creativity and education, and passionately believe that the two go hand in hand together to make a phenomenal educational experience. The power of creativity aids learning and can change environments in the most dynamic of ways. Given the chance as SG I aim to make a creative difference in making SMA an indispensable experience that will go beyond the school walls, to help nurture future game changers who will impact the world we live in.