



STAMFORD

# Senior Leadership Team 2023

## **WILL PHELAN**

*Principal*



A career teacher since 1993, I have taught in four independents and one state grammar school across the course of my career in the UK and in Australia. All schools have been of similar models as the powerhouse day school with some boarding in their town. I have been mainly pastorally focussed having held roles such as Boarding Master, Head of Year 11, Head of Sixth Form, Senior Deputy Head. In 2011 I became Headmaster of Stamford School, having completed my MBA in 2010 and have been Principal since 2016. I have also coached First XI cricket and First XV Rugby. I am, and still like to think of myself as, a History teacher and taught Year 7 at Stamford High School last year. I am Vice Chair of HMC Projects Overseas, a trustee of the HMC Finance and Risk Committee, a member for the Keystone Academy Trust and Chair of the Education committee at St Hugh's Preparatory School, Woodhall Spa. I would describe myself as a participant rather than a competitor in triathlons, play golf, badly, and enjoy watching all levels, and pretty much all sports.

## **DEAN WHITE**

*Bursar*



I am a trained Chartered Accountant, who before moving into education held financial management roles across a number of sectors. I joined Stamford Endowed Schools in 2019 and before that was Bursar of a co-ed, HMC school in Yorkshire for five years. As Bursar I am responsible for the School's financial management, and lead the operations and professional teams; I also attend all Governor meetings and work very closely with the Principal on delivering the School's strategy. I am a Governor of an independent prep school in Cambridge and was previously Governor of a co-ed state senior school. Outside of School, I am a reasonably enthusiastic runner and I am currently in training for the 2023 London Marathon.

## **VICKY BUCKMAN**

*Head*



I am, quite unusually, both the daughter and sister of Head Teachers. I grew up in the "school house" of a large rural Grammar School so education has surrounded me all my life. Despite my father's best efforts, I followed him, and my two brothers, into teaching. Last term, I completed my 100th term in teaching and of those 100 terms, 78 were spent in large co-educational independent schools; full boarding, boarding and day schools. Of those 100 terms, I have spent 90 of them in a leadership position – firstly as Housemistress, as Deputy Head and then as Head. In all that time, I have continued to play my part as a member of an academic department, I am a biologist, and I still enjoy enthusing students about the intricacies and wonders of the natural world. Alongside that, I've dabbled in D of E, SCUBA diving, sport, UCAS and careers as well as the supervision of PGCE students and new teachers. Outside School, I am a keen musician and gardener, and I took up running during lockdown. I am married to a vicar and have two grown-up offspring.

## **NICK DAVIES**

*Deputy Head*



I have been teaching for 16 years, and before that was an officer in the Royal Navy. Once I had started teaching I was commissioned in the Territorial Army, as platoon commander in the third battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment. I have worked at three large schools in my teaching career and have been Senior Deputy Head since 2018 at Stamford School. I originally worked at Stamford School between 2009 and 2012 as a teacher of Geography and then a Head of Year. At Haileybury I was first Head of Geography and then a Housemaster. As Head of Geography I introduced some new academic trips to locations such as Morocco and Uganda and was very pleased to see GCSE Geography exam results increase significantly during my tenure. As a Housemaster at Haileybury, I hugely enjoyed looking over 50 teenage boys in my boarding house, where I was responsible for their living arrangements, pastoral care and academic development- it was certainly a role which kept me fully occupied! I am a father of two, both of whom are at Stamford Junior School and keep me busy outside of school. I love climbing, paddling, swimming, cycling and running (when I'm not injured!) and canoed 70 miles on the River Spey last summer.

## **GEOFFREY BROWN**

*Assistant Head Co-curricular*



I have been at Stamford Endowed Schools for 30 years, and teaching for 35 in total. I have held the roles of History teacher, Head of Y7-9, Head of History and Head of Sixth Form. I have never taught, or been schooled, in an education institution younger than 446 years! I am passionate about football and a Peterborough United supporter. I have various hobbies, one of which was first sold in 1947... can you guess what it was?

## **SUZY MACCARTHY**

*Assistant Head Staff Development*



I have been teaching for 14 years, 12 of which have been at Stamford Endowed Schools. After university I moved from Dublin to London to pursue a career in Human Resources, however my plans changed and in 2008 I married a teacher (Tom) and became a teacher myself. Tom and I now live in Rutland with our two children, both of whom are at Stamford Junior School, and our latest addition, Bramble the Springer Spaniel pup. I have been in a Staff Development role at Stamford since 2018 and have enjoyed being able to support our staff at every stage of their career.

## **ALISTER PIKE**

*Assistant Head Conduct*



I have been a teacher of both History and Sport at the Stamford Endowed Schools for 24 years. My wife is Head of Spanish at Stamford School and both of my children attended the Stamford Endowed Schools from the Early Bird nursery aged 2, until the end of Y13. I have been Head of Y9, Y10 and Y11 as well as a day Housemaster and a boarding Housemaster. I am a keen cricketer and lover of all sports. I enjoy mudlarking on the banks of the River Thames and am widely travelled.

## **SAM MCCORMICK**

*Deputy Head Academic*



I joined Stamford Endowed Schools in September 2019 and have been teaching since 2010. I have a degree in Politics and Philosophy, currently teaching Philosophy and Ethics but I have also taught English and History. With two small children I don't have much time for my own hobbies! But if I do have any spare time, I can often be found running around the Lincolnshire and Rutland countryside. In October I'm running the London Marathon for the second time to raise funds for Thorpe Hall Hospice in Peterborough.

## **RICHARD BREWSTER**

*Assistant Head Teaching and Learning*



I have been a teacher for 28 years, 25 of which have been at Stamford School. I am a passionate Grimsby Town Football Club fan and love most sports, especially the NFL. I also enjoy anything with aviation and military history. I am a keen member of the SES CCF RAF section, and am a wannabe Tom Cruise in Top Gun having flown on the University of Wales Air Squadron (UWAS) for three years.

## **DR ANDREW CROOKELL**

*Assistant Head Data, Assessment and Reporting*



I have been teaching for 18 years, 17 of which have been at Stamford High School. Prior to this I was in industrial research and development, ending my time as a Managing Director for an international research company. I have developed and delivered postgraduate courses on Entrepreneurship at UK universities, to help early-career researchers understand commercialisation of research. I was also elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry for supporting young people in accessing careers in Chemistry and have completed Leadership and Management qualifications from the Institute of Leadership and Management. Outside of school I volunteer at two steam railways, working as a locomotive fireman and helping in the restoration and repair of steam locomotives. I am a sailing and powerboating instructor, yacht master, and safety boat coxswain for Rutland Sailing Club. I also play guitars, bass and keyboards and look after the audio engineering for a local band.

## **HARVEY HEWLETT**

*Assistant Head Curriculum*



I am about to start my 18th year at Stamford School having taught for 26 years in total. I have held a number of positions in my time at Stamford School including Head of Geography, Director of Teaching and Learning, Director of Studies and Deputy Head of Academic. I run many of the school trips, notably the USA, the Geography fieldtrips to Cornwall and led the ski trips to Italy for a several years.

## **ANDY MURPHY**

*Head of Sixth Form*



This is my 9th year in a Stamford Endowed Schools and my 16th as a teacher. Teaching is my second – in a former field of Marketing Manager at Guinness and then at Heineken. I am passionate about sports. I still play cricket, but have downgraded to playing touch rugby to avoid black eyes. I am very active in the community coaching both rugby and cricket. I am a member of the MCC and have just received my 20 year tie! I have taken on the Junior Boarding House in the MCC and have senior Deputy Head role as I just love taking and enjoy being kept busy.

## **CHRIS HAWKINS**

*Assistant Head Sixth Form*



I joined Stamford High School in September 1988 as a very young Head of Department for Food & Nutrition and Textiles, and was promoted to second in command in the Design Faculty after three years. Prior to Stamford, I taught in co-ed schools in Manchester and Hull. I am married with two children, both of whom benefitted from being educated at Stamford from the age of 2½. I love baking and regularly experiment with different ingredients and unusual flavour combinations. I have designed and made a variety of bespoke wedding cakes for customers all over the UK, but transporting the finished product is always the most complicated part of the process! I also enjoy ski trips and summer holidays in North America, walking along the Norfolk coastal path and reading autobiographies. I'm very proud to have been the driving force behind the House System being introduced at Stamford High School and to see how popular it still is almost 20 years later. I was super excited to welcome Dame Mary Berry to school when she opened our new Atrium and refurbished Food & Nutrition Department.

## **LIBBY SEARLE**

*Deputy Head Pastoral*



I joined Stamford Endowed Schools two years ago, having been a teacher for over 14 years and a senior leader for over 10 at three different schools. I have been an integral part of senior leadership teams that have won a number of national awards including TES senior leadership team of the year and TES school of the year. I have started a number of initiatives in schools that have been nominated for awards, notably the opening of a brand new boarding house at a previous school which I designed, project managed and recruited for. Outside of school I am a keen skier, enjoy visiting historical houses and watching my sons play rugby and hockey, both of whom play at county level. I am currently learning to be more useful in the garden and am attempting to be more green fingered!

## **KATIE DEXTER**

*Assistant Head Pastoral*



I feel very fortunate to be part of a team who care so much about the mental health and wellbeing of our students. I have been an English teacher for almost 30 years, 21 of which have been spent at Stamford High School. Prior to this, I worked in mostly inner-city schools, and was also a founding member of a successful international school in Northern Spain. This helped develop my love of languages and different cultures, and many of the books I read introduce me to the lives of those in very different worlds from our own, either in the present day or historically. I find sailing very exciting, and have crewed dinghies to large yachts. My real passion, however, is to be outside in the natural world with my family, walking in the mountains, by the sea, or across the fields – anywhere green (and if I can spot an unusual animal or bird, even better). We often head out on our bikes (preferably off-roading), and will try to find a café enroute. I am never without a camera of some sort and enjoy amateur photography.

## **ANNA KENNEDY**

*Director of Safeguarding*



I have been at Stamford Endowed Schools since December 2021 within the pastoral team. Prior to this I trained as both a police officer, psychotherapist and clinical supervisor. Whilst serving as a police officer I was so successful in intelligence analysis that I was head hunted for MI5! I also used to work on the bomb squad as an adviser to gold control (the big boss). I have had many noticeable successes; every time I was able to keep someone safe from harm, saved someone's life using CPR at the scene of a crime or accident or talked someone off the train tracks or down from a roof. As a Psychotherapist, I have helped many suicidal people to lead a full and happy life – every day is a success – or at least, I aim for it to be. Outside of school I am the proud founder of the Rutland Ladies Choir, a seventy-strong well-being choir for the ladies of Rutland and surrounding counties. I have two little dogs, a dachshund called Otto and a Chihuahua x Dachshund called Pip. We like to take our trailer tent out and spend time wandering around the countryside. I make and decorate wedding and birthday cakes when I have the time.