



CATERHAM
SCHOOL

TRUSTEES APPOINTMENT BRIEF

To start:
August 2026



One of the top co-educational schools in the country

ABOUT CATERHAM

Caterham School was named as Times Educational Supplement Independent School of the Year and is a UK-leading co-educational day and boarding school.

Caterham School is a multi award winning co-educational day and boarding school. Recognised globally as a leading school for its innovation with both technology and curriculum design, Caterham was awarded best senior independent school of the year in 2023 by the Times Educational Supplement. Caterham Prep School is an integral part of Caterham School and has been shortlisted three times in recent years as Independent Prep of the Year. Pupils begin their education at Reception and continue through to Year 6 before moving on to the senior school.

Caterham is a school with a clear sense of purpose and ambition, combining exceptional academic standards with a deep commitment to pupil wellbeing. It was the first independent school in the country to receive the Wellbeing Award for Schools, reflecting its belief in the transformative power of education and its dedication to supporting every young person in its care. This ethos is evident not only in the achievements of its pupils, who excel nationally in sport, drama, debating and academic competitions, but also in the impactful partnerships the school has developed with local maintained schools and through its extensive bursary programme.

Caterham is a happy, supportive community in which pupils are encouraged to develop confidence, character and intellectual curiosity. By the time they leave, Caterhamians are emotionally intelligent, outward-looking thinkers who are eager to engage with the world around them.

Set in the stunning Harestone Valley within the Surrey Hills, the school's 200-acre campus provides an inspiring learning environment just 20 miles from Central London. The estate includes sports fields, woodland, a high ropes course and an outdoor learning centre, alongside impressive Victorian architecture complemented by contemporary facilities such as a science complex, a Sports Centre with indoor pool and fitness suite, two theatres and a dance studio within the Centre for Performing Arts, the Maggs Library, and a dedicated Digital Innovation Centre.

While proud of its 200-year heritage, Caterham is firmly future-focused. Its unique EDGE innovation and digital curriculum develops digital fluency, entrepreneurial thinking and problem-solving skills alongside academic excellence. The school is one of a select group recognised as an Apple Distinguished School and holds EdTech 50 school status, awarded at the House of Lords.

Caterham's forward momentum was reinforced in its 2024 ISI inspection under the new framework, where it became the only HMC through-school to be awarded three Key Areas of Strength – recognising excellence in teaching and learning, ambition for young people, wellbeing and technological skills. The school has grown significantly in size and ambition over the past decade and is committed to continuing this strong trajectory in the years ahead. Caterham Family of Schools

Over the last two years, Caterham has welcomed Copthorne Prep School and The Hawthorns School into its Family of Schools, in a sole membership structure.

The purpose of coming together is to create a strong group of schools with a shared philosophy and ethos. Each school retains its independent identity within the wider group, located in different physical sites, offering different contexts and unique educational experiences for its pupils. Underpinning this is a strong shared commitment to providing the highest standards of educational excellence to all pupils.

The Family of Schools structure gives all schools greater stability. It also offers exciting opportunities to grow collective ability for innovation in teaching and learning, building future skills for all pupils. The Family of Schools is working towards a greater alignment of academic standards, sharing best practice in delivering an innovative curriculum, teacher training, and also sharing resources across professional services.

Other Partnerships

Caterham has a number of strategic and commercial partnerships which contribute directly or indirectly to the school's development. These include sports partnerships, commercial agreements, contractual teaching relationships and others. Caterham's recently developed sports facilities are open for public use outside of school hours; these and other activities contribute income for re-investment into the school, and to fund bursaries, and scholarships.



ABOUT CATERHAM

Academics

Academic learning is broad with a vast range of subjects on offer, all taught by highly specialist teachers. Connections and pathways to UK and global universities are strong, with 50 Caterhamians currently studying at Oxford and Cambridge University, and this year saw pupils secure full scholarship offers to Princeton and unconditional offers to fellow Ivy League institution the University of Pennsylvania. In 2025, 82% of Caterham pupils progressed to their first choice university and course and 100% to their university of choice, across Oxbridge, Russell Group, G5 universities in the UK, in the USA and beyond. The school's long-standing tradition of preparing successful medics, vets and dentists also continued with a 100% success rate for the third year running.

Pastoral Care

The school supports pupils to be successful in an environment which is caring, optimistic and encouraging. Caterham is a happy school which provides an atmosphere which supports pupils and enables their success, their development of character and well-being. This supportive environment ensures that, by the time they leave school, Caterhamians are intellectually curious and emotionally intelligent thinkers, eager to engage with the world around them whilst resisting the rush to judgment, sensitive to the needs and beliefs of others but with the courage of their own convictions too. The promotion of well-being, care for each other and resilience lies at the core of the school. Initiatives such as School Council; the Digital Council; Study Buddy and proactive pastoral discussion groups are centre stage in school life. Within structures such as these, pupils find their voice and develop leadership skills that will last through their lives.

Co-Curricular

The school offers a vast range of performances, clubs, activities and trips. The extensive co-curricular provision allows pupils to learn new skills, helps young people find what makes them tick and what brings them joy beyond academic study. All pupils are expected to involve themselves in at least one co-curricular activity each term. Activities on offer are varied and numerous, and include Aviation Club, Classics Society, Computing Club, Lego Build and Robotics Clubs, Photography Club, Table Tennis and the Young Vics Theatre Society.

Boarding

Caterham School has a thriving and long-standing boarding community, with an experienced and dedicated team to ensure a warm and caring atmosphere across all boarding houses, offering full and weekly boarding.

Boarding at Caterham is full of opportunities for discovery and personal development, and boarders are supported and encouraged to grow as confident and responsible young people, ready for education and ready for life in every direction. They live and work together in a relaxed, friendly, family environment. Whether boarding or day, all pupils are fully integrated in the school, with everyone benefitting from the wrap-around care and support provided.



OUR PEOPLE

CATERHAM SCHOOL

Our School is led by a dynamic team:

Monisha Shah - Chair of Trustees

Monisha is a Media professional with expertise in commercial broadcast and digital media. She has significant experience of serving on a wide range of arts, media, education and regulatory boards. She is Chair of the Legal Services Board, the Publishers' Licensing Agency and co-chair of the Copyright Licensing Agency. She is also a council member of the Advertising Standards Authority, and chair of the Kings Counsel Selection panel. In a voluntary capacity, she serves as Trustee of the Royal Collection Trust and the Art Fund.

In previous roles, she was the senior independent member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (part of UKRI), an independent member on the Ofcom Content Board and board member of the Office for Students. She has also served as Chair of Rose Bruford College, and a Trustee of the Tate, National Gallery, Foundling Museum, Donmar Warehouse and Wikimedia UK and the Art Fund (till July 2026). As a senior executive, she worked as Director of Sales for Europe, Africa, India and the Middle East for BBC Worldwide (now BBC Studios) from 2000 – 2010.

Ceri Jones - Headmaster

Ceri read History at Cambridge and has been Headmaster at Caterham since 2015. He was previously Second Master at Tonbridge School and also the Principal of The Marsh Academy, a large non-selective academy in Kent. In 2015 he was awarded a Distinction by the University of Buckingham for his Masters in Educational Leadership and he co-founded an educational charity, the Accelerate and Access Foundation, which supports bright pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply to top ranking universities based on a model of collaboration between state schools, independent schools and universities that is unique in the UK. Ceri is a Governor of the London Academy of Excellence and a number of local primary and prep schools. He writes and speaks regularly on the topics of school leadership, school partnerships, AI in education and Digital Literacy.

Ben Purkiss - Executive Head. Prep Schools

A graduate from University of Wales with a BSc in Ocean Science (specialism in Geophysics), Ben was appointed Headmaster of the Prep School in April 2019. He is an ISI Inspector, was the Deputy Head at St Bede's Prep School and has previous experience as a Director of Studies, Head of Boarding, Housemaster and Head of Science.

Suri Araniyasundaran - Chief Operating Officer and Clerk to the Trustees

A Fellow of the Association of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Suri has nearly 30 years of experience in a Educational environment undertaking similar roles. Suri is responsible for the professional services teams at the School and is the clerk to the Trustees.

Sarah Print-Griffiths - Senior Deputy Head

After graduating in Mathematical Sciences from Oxford, Sarah progressed her career at Stowe School and Dulwich College. She is a major figure in the national movement to promote wellbeing in education and regularly speaks at conferences. She led Caterham to be awarded the prestigious 'Wellbeing Award for Schools' earlier this year.



Recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment.

THE ROLES AT CATERHAM

This is an exciting time to join the Board of Trustees at Caterham or as a Governor in one of the the Family of Schools. and participate in shaping the School's future direction and strategy with inspirational guidance and advice. We are looking for those who believe in our values and want to play a part in developing our priorities including widening the School's horizons, supporting its aspirational bursary programme and partnering with the local community whilst always maintaining the highest academic standards, support and opportunities for our pupils.

The trustees, both as a group and as individuals, are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of Caterham School and the Family of Schools, in accordance with the school's Articles of Association and with legal and regulatory guidelines.

Trustees have a number of statutory duties, which are:

To ensure that the organisation complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations

To ensure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document

To ensure the organisation uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects for the benefit of the public

To contribute actively to the board of trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, goals and targets and evaluating performance against agreed goals and targets

To safeguard the reputation and values of the organisation

To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation including having appropriate policies and procedures in place

To ensure the financial resilience and stability of the organisation

To protect and manage the assets of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds

To follow proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal and remuneration of the chief executive (Headmaster)

In addition, the trustees of a school have a responsibility over safeguarding of pupils



THE PERSON AT CATERHAM

We are looking to appoint up to five visionary Trustees/Governors to join the Boards and support our vibrant community of teaching and professional staff. Having undertaken a review of the skills on the Board, we have identified that this search should focus on those with experience in the following areas: finance, marketing and PR, fundraising, partnerships, education and Senior Leadership and Management.

For all trustees we are looking for someone who brings all or most of the following:

Is committed to the School and has sufficient time and willingness to contribute effectively to Board proceedings

Has experience and an understanding of strategy development

Is able to work effectively as a member of a team

Is willing to speak up and can remain independent of any influence from another organisation or individual

Has a reasonable level of understanding of legal, financial, audit and other regulatory requirements of a school and a charity

Is able to make quick and sound decisions based on an analysis of information presented to them

Is aware of developments in the education and charity sectors and areas of interest to the School

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Has a passion for education

Can evaluate risks with a balanced and informed approach

Is committed to the Nolan principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

We welcome applications from all backgrounds.



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AT CATERHAM

Trusteeship of Caterham is a serious commitment and will require between 12-15 days a year. This is spread across the three academic terms, and takes account of formal meetings, attendance at school events, informal consultations, participation in panels, inspections, walk-about and other activities. Trustees are asked to commit to a variety of sub-committees and, if appropriate, on the boards of its family of schools.

Board Meetings

Board meetings take place four times per year, lasting up to four hours.

Sub Committees

Trustees also sit on a variety of sub-committees depending on their skills, experience and interests. Typically, each trustee sits on one or two sub-committees, representing an additional commitment of between three and eight hours of meetings each year.

School Life

Trustees are encouraged to become as involved in the life of the School as possible, attending events including plays and concerts.

Consultation

Outside of Board and committee meetings, staff may seek to consult with trustees on particular subjects.

Expenses

The role is unpaid, however reasonable expenses are paid in line with the School's expenses policy.

Term

The Board consists of 13 trustees currently. Each trustee serves a term of three years which, under normal circumstances, can be renewed twice. Training and induction is provided to all trustees and is tailored depending upon their background and experience.

Safeguarding

Caterham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All offers for paid or voluntary roles are subject to an enhanced DBS check.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates should apply for this role by sending their CV and a covering letter to the Chief Operating Officer & Clerk to the Trustees - COO@caterhamschool.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is 11 June 2026

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.





Inspiring education for life



CATERHAM
SCHOOL

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