



Chelmsford County High School for Girls
Student Leadership Conference

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Keynote Speakers

Mitra Janes

Diversity & Inclusion Lead for GBM and CMB at HSBC

Verity Wilde

Assistant Editor, BBC World Service

Laurie Dawson

Former Company Director

Nicole Mascarenhas

Operational Due Diligence Analyst

Event Leader: Mr B. Copper



BIOGRAPHIES

Mitra Janes

Diversity & Inclusion Lead for GBM and CMB at HSBC



Mitra Janes joined HSBC in August 2021 as Head of Diversity and Inclusion for investment banking, markets and commercial banking globally. Mitra was featured on the Global Diversity List's top 20 diversity champions in 2020 and was named as one of the top 50 diversity professionals in industry in 2018 and 2016.

Prior to being at HSBC, Mitra was Group Head of Diversity and Inclusion at RSA Insurance, and prior to joining RSA, Mitra had spent nearly five years at global law firm DLA Piper as Head of Diversity and Inclusion. Mitra spent a significant proportion of her career in generalist HR roles at Ford Motor Company before specialising in diversity and inclusion. She was a member of the Advisory Board of the UK Government's Taskforce to boost socio-economic diversity at senior levels in financial and professional services.

Mitra was a pupil at CCHS from 1989 until 1996 and studied Psychology at University of Surrey. Mitra has a genuine passion and enthusiasm for diversity and inclusion and ensuring everyone feels valued and is able to contribute.

Verity Wilde

Assistant Editor, BBC World Service



Verity runs the team making the BBC World Service's What in the World podcast. Recently that's taken her to Manila, Lagos and Kuala Lumpur where they've made episodes about news and issues important to 16-24 year olds around the world.

Before this she worked on BBC Minute, a one minute news bulletin that published every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day. Prior to that she worked on digital video for the BBC News website and social channels as well as spending time working at the BBC's bureau in Washington DC.

She loves elections, and has worked on the BBC's coverage of every UK national election and referendum for more than a decade. Verity worked for UEFA at EURO 2012, where she was the first female voiceover on UEFA.com.

She started her career as a reporter, newsreader and breakfast sidekick at local commercial stations in Essex, as well as across the East of England and Midlands.

Laurie Dawson
Former Company Director



Laurie Dawson is a former beauty brand director, and content creator, currently working in tech.

In 2015 she started a beauty brand with no experience or financial backing and learned everything on the journey.

Today she wants to encourage others to see themselves as more than their career, be open to change, recover from setbacks and develop resilience in business and beyond.

Nicole Mascarenhas
Operational Due Diligence Analyst



Nicole Mascarenhas works in operational due diligence at a leading pension fund, where she evaluates the operational infrastructure of investment managers before capital deployment. She brings prior experience from a wealth management firm in a similar capacity and previously led a depositary team at a financial solutions provider.

Nicole studied at Tiffin Girls' School and earned her degree from the University of Exeter, including a study-abroad program at Vassar College in New York. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Law from BPP and is currently pursuing advanced qualifications relevant to her role in finance.

In her spare time, Nicole enjoys travelling, hiking, going to the theatre, and discovering every vegan restaurant in the vicinity.