



Governor Newsletter

Welcome to our EASTER newsletter

The start of the New Year for Governors is a busy one. All of our Committees have met, as well as the Steering and Investment Groups. These committees consist of between four and nine governors. We have also had our yearly Strategic meeting and the first of three Full Governing Body meetings.



Diane Atkins
Chair of Governors

At the Strategic meeting we discussed future admissions, funding and plans for new buildings.

The Curriculum Committee visited the Psychology department before their meeting. Subjects on the agenda included pupil achievement and well-being. The Personnel Committee discussed leadership and management issues, receiving a staffing update from the Headteacher, and reviewed relevant policies. After the Personnel Committee meeting, the Admissions Committee were updated on the 11+, late entry tests for September 2014 and 6th form applications.

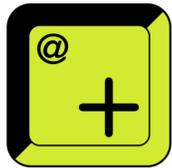
In the last meeting the Resources Committee received the financial update, discussed funding issues and covered buildings and health and safety matters. This is quite a busy start to the New Year.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very happy Easter holiday and good luck to those taking exams on their return to school.

STRATEGIC THOUGHTS - from Wade Graham, Vice Chair

Be prepared – In October 2007 Ofsted judged SWG to be an outstanding school and found, during an Interim Assessment in April 2011, that this level of performance had been maintained. Although routine inspection should not occur (unless concerns are raised about performance) the key word here is 'should', as it introduces an element of doubt. It would be unwise and risky not to ensure that preparation was in place. With this in mind, the Governing Body has been briefed on likely areas of Ofsted governance questioning. The thrust and detail of inspections has changed from 2007, with inspectors now focussing more on ensuring student safety, and weaknesses are known, with remedial action in hand as necessary. Finally, that resources are not only accounted for, but documented evidence can be provided to show how the resources are improving standards. To help us keep up-to-date on this wide range of vital topics there are many excellent resources, of which the on-line Modern Governor is a good example. This site contains first class training materials of which the safeguarding and interviewing modules are of note.

We have all been encouraged to use these facilities to help ensure that when Ofsted comes calling, the Governing Body can perform as well as we know the school will. It's all down to the preparation.



Maths & Computing

Dates to note:

- Summer Term 22nd April—18th July
- Half Term 26th—30th May
- AS / A Level results—Thursday 14th August
- GCSE results—Thursday 21st August

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Who's Who? Nigel Anstey—Parent Governor

How long have you been a Governor? I was elected in January this year and have been made to feel very welcome by staff and fellow governors alike.

What is it like? I am a member of the curriculum committee and have represented the governors at parent consultation evenings. Parents have told me that this is a well led school and praise the commitment of the staff in providing the best education possible for all pupils.

Tell us a little about yourself. My early career saw 24 years' service in the Army, spent mostly overseas followed by a further ten years as a group service manager for a national construction company. Married to Sara, we live in Salisbury and have a daughter in year 7 who, when we can get her out of bed in the mornings, actually enjoys going to school!!

What will you bring to the Governing Body? I have been a governor at a local primary school for seven years and am currently in my third year as Chair. I have attended numerous courses and workshops and I am an active member of the Wiltshire Chairs Networking Group. Although there are differences between primary and secondary education many of the skills sets required are transferable. I look forward to bringing a parental perspective to the Governing Body.



Full list of Governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins

(Chair)

Mr Wade Graham

(Vice Chair)

Mrs Julie Allen

Staff

Mrs Lisa Ball

Mr Chris Child

Parent

Mr David French

Mrs Jacqui Goodall

Mrs Sharon Hackett

Staff

Mrs Helen Hollinghurst

Staff

Mr Howard Prince

Parent

Mr Edward Richards

Parent

Mrs Helen Stewart

Mrs Michele Chilcott

Headteacher

Mrs Jane Walsham

Clerk

Who's Who? Sharon Hackett—Staff Governor



I have been teaching at South Wilts Grammar for nearly 18 years now, which is hard to believe! I joined the school as an newly qualified teacher (NQT) and love the place so much I've stayed here all this time. I am now Second in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) with responsibility for French and I'm proud to work in such an exciting and excellent school. I particularly value the strong relationships I have with my colleagues and the girls in the classroom.

I am looking forward to working the on Governing Body, helping to represent the staff and their views in the decision making process.

It will also be useful and interesting for me to gain an insight into how the school is governed in challenging times for education.

Outside of school, I enjoy time with my family (I have a nine year old son and a five year old daughter) and friends as well as practising yoga and being outdoors walking, cycling or gardening when our weather allows.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Resources

Julie Allen
Diane Atkins
Chris Child
David French
Howard Prince
Edward Richards
Helen Stewart
Wade Graham

Personnel and Admissions

Diane Atkins
Lisa Ball
David French
Wade Graham
Sharon Hackett

Curriculum

Diane Atkins
Jacqui Goodall
Helen Hollinghurst
Helen Stewart
Nigel Anstey