

Governor Newsletter



Maths & Computing



Science

Welcome to our newsletter — please read on!

To parents of girls who have joined us this year, a special welcome to South Wilts Grammar School Governors' Newsletter and to all our 'serving parents' welcome back to the new year at school. The object of the Newsletter is to try and keep parents informed about who the Governors are and what they are involved with at any particular time of the year.



Diane Atkins
Chair of Governors

Each committee has met once since the return to school in September. There are now two new Governors. Following the resignation of John Youings in July, Jacqui Goodall, an ex-secondary Headteacher, was invited to join the Governing Body and become a member of the Curriculum Committee. It was also decided to co-opt another Governor, as part of our Academy requirement is to form an Audit Committee. We felt that a parent with Chartered Accountant qualifications would be ideal. We had several replies to our appeal and were very happy to welcome David French on to the Governing Body. He will sit on both the Personnel and Audit Committees.

We have also held our second AGM of the Members of the Academy Trust of South Wilts Grammar School for Girls - now an annual event. The main object of this meeting is to approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year 1 September 2011- 31 August 2012.

You are already aware of the outstanding academic results this summer, an improvement on last year. Our congratulations to all the girls and staff involved.

Finally it just leaves me to say on behalf of the Governors, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Strategic Thoughts!

One of the roles of a Governing Body is to act as a critical friend in a supporting yet challenging way. Supporting is easier than challenging. To challenge is difficult without accurate, up-to-date information on what the school is doing over time.

As in all professions, education has its own 'language' and sets of acronymic data. The raw educational data used by our Headteacher and her staff is no exception; anybody for ALIS? (A Level Information System – Performance Indicators for post 16 education). However, SWGS Governors are very well supported and we all quickly come to recognise how fortunate we are with the flow of informative school information that is available in school reports and invariably on the school web site.

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Dates to note:

- 7 January Return to school
- 8 February Staff Training Day
- 11—15 February Half Term
- 18 February Staff Training Day
- 25 March—7 April Easter Holiday
- 27—31 May Half Term
- 19 July Break up for Summer Holiday

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Did you know? All our articles will be uploaded and linked to the school website, so that you can refer back to them.



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Strategic Thoughts! (cont.)

Over the past year, as our Academy efforts sharpened and concentrated Governors minds, a set of Performance Indicators have been introduced to help us track the key areas shown below.

- Pupil achievement
- Pupil wellbeing
- Leadership and management
- Finance
- External relations

The data these indicators have provided individually is valuable but it is the longer term accumulation that will provide the vital trend information that will enable the Governing Body to be able to track, hopefully, their continuing progress. In discussing these indicators we can act as critical and informed friends.

Who's Who? David French

How long have you been a Governor?

Not long! I became a Governor in October 2012.

What roles do you perform as a Governor?

The school is planning to set up an Audit Committee and so the Governing Body were looking for someone specifically with finance and accounting experience. I currently participate in the Personnel and Resources committees, although this may all change in the future as and when the Audit Committee becomes established. In the meantime, the work of Resources Committee includes the school's financial management and strategy and I hope that my involvement in both this and the Personnel Committee will prove a useful addition.



Why did you want to become a Governor?

My daughter is in Year 8 and I wanted to get more involved in the school. The school has achieved tremendous success and I would like to see this continuing, including making the most of our Academy status. This status brings new responsibilities combined with exciting new freedoms, which provide great opportunities for the school to continue to thrive.

Tell us a little about yourself.

Originally from Cheshire, I'm married with two children and live near Andover. I started my career with ICI, although most of my career has been in the pharmaceutical industry, including Finance Director roles in the UK and overseas. I am currently Chief Financial Officer at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which runs the NHS hospitals in Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover.

Outside work, we enjoy pottering in the garden and my Northern roots remain steadfast – after decades of mediocrity, my life-time support of Manchester City is finally being rewarded!

Parents Evenings — Meet Your Governors

There are precious few opportunities in the calendar for parents to have face to face conversations with the school Governors. However, you may wish to be aware that one such opportunity is Parents' Evenings, where we arrange for at least one of the Governors (usually a Parent Governor) to be available. Any parents wishing to provide feedback (both good and bad!), seek information, raise concerns etc, are invited, and indeed, encouraged, to have a chat with them at Parents' Evenings.

Full list of Governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins

(Chair)

Mr Wade Graham

(Vice Chair)

Mrs Julie Allen

Staff Governor

Mrs Lisa Ball

Mrs Kristina Beard

Parent Governor

Mrs Tina Beard

Parent Governor

Mr Chris Child

Parent Governor

Mr David French

Co-opted Governor

Mrs Jacqui Goodall

Mrs Helen Hollinghurst

Staff Governor

Mr Howard Prince

Parent Governor

Mr John Raisbeck

Mr Edward Richards

Parent Governor

Mrs Helen Stewart

Mr Chris Whiteley

Mrs Elizabeth Wrighton

Staff Governor

Mrs Michele Chilcott

Headteacher

Mrs Valerie Bryan

Clerk to Governors