



Maths &
Computing



Science

Dates to note:

- **3rd September** Year 12 am ;
Year 13 pm;
- **4th September** Year 7 only;
- **5th September** Years 7—11
and 13;
- **6th September** All Years in school
- **19th September** Speech Day

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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.

Governor Newsletter

Welcome to our newsletter — please read on!

We have come to the end of another busy and very successful year. As Governors we now feel more settled in our Academy role since our first year mile post was passed in January but must never become complacent as not all the rules and regulations have yet been fully finalised and there is always the possibility that even more could be implemented in the future. The Governors have decided to trial a new committee for one year with the aim of sharpening our efforts at monitoring school performance.



Diane Atkins
Chair of Governors

Our wish to continue with an updated membership of The South West Academic Trust now we have all become Academies was confirmed at the General Meeting of the Governors in March. The AGM of the Trust took place at Exeter University in June and it was unanimously agreed by the Directors of the subscribing Academies that the solicitor acting for the Trust should be instructed to do the required work necessary to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was also noted that the Trust continued to be a real agent for improvement in all the member schools, as more staff and pupils became involved.

As always these last few weeks of the school year are crammed with activities and trips throughout the school. These include the Year 13 Leavers' Ball for and Induction Days for the new Years 7 and 12 who are joining us in September. A very successful Sports Day was held in what seems like the only dry few hours in this wet summer. The Olympic themed banners were particularly cheerful and great fun.

Finally we must thank Mrs Chilcott for her seamless take over of the Headship and all the hard work that she and the staff have put in this year. To all girls who are awaiting Exam results we wish you every success and to those who are moving on a bright and happy future. We hope you all have a good summer holiday. Lets hope for better weather!

Strategic Thoughts!

I sat down with good intentions to write this piece about the changes made to the Governing Body as a result of SWGS becoming an Academy last year. I was going to show how operating procedures had been updated and explain how our governance and school performance will be overseen. I wanted to explain the changes made to school financial controls that allowed our first set of accounts to be lodged with Companies house. I also wanted to congratulate our Head Teacher and her staff for the hard work put into the comprehensive planning documents which will guide the school over the next few years.

BUT all that went out of the window as I read about the problems faced by a large number of state schools. Many of their students are under achieving at GCSE and there is a worrying lack of opportunities exposed, for gifted and talented students, as some teachers admit to never advising them to apply for the best universities.

So dry Governance topics must be put aside to give prominence to our good fortune for having such enthusiastic, lively students who are taught and inspired by a dedicated and skilled staff here in Salisbury.

As we head to the holiday period with street parties, bunting and Olympic torches all around please add SWGS and all those who work and play there to the celebrations.
Wade Graham (Vice Chair)



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Full list of Governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins
(Chair)
Mr Wade Graham
(Vice Chair)
Mrs Julie Allen
Staff
Mrs Lisa Ball
Mrs Kristina Beard
Parent
Mrs Tina Beard
Parent
Mr Chris Child
Parent
Mrs Helen Hollinghurst
Staff
Mr Howard Prince
Parent
Mr John Raisbeck
Mr Edward Richards
Parent
Mrs Helen Stewart
Mrs Michele Chilcott
Headteacher
Mr Chris Whiteley
Mrs Elizabeth Wrighton
Staff
Mr John Youngs
Mrs Valerie Bryan
Clerk

Who's Who? Helen Hollinghurst

How long have you been a Governor?

Since 2006. I was re-elected in 2010.

What roles do you perform as a Governor?

I represent the support staff of the school on the governing body and I am a member of the Curriculum Committee. We keep up to date with curriculum issues and help decide the impact these will have on the school. We visit the different departments, hear about their work and observe some of their lessons. We also have a remit to oversee admissions to the school: the 11+ procedure has recently undergone a major review.



Why did you stand for election?

I believe it is important for the staff to have a voice on the governing body, as any decisions made directly affect us. I also have a personal and professional interest in secondary education, as I qualified as a teacher in 1980 and have had daughters at South Wilts over a ten-year period.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I taught for 18 years in Further Education before taking time out to bring up my three children. I took up my present post as Cover Supervisor at South Wilts in September 2004 when my eldest daughter was in Year 9 at the school; she is now at university and her younger sister is doing her A level exams here at the moment. I love the variety of my job, as no two days are the same and the girls are a pleasure to be with. I see all the pupils in years 7 to 11, albeit on a random basis when my teacher colleagues are temporarily absent. Working full-time with two children still at school doesn't leave much time for hobbies, but I enjoy the theatre, cinema and studying social history in any form – I'm really looking forward to the Chalke Valley History Festival at the end of June.

John Youngs

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to John at the end of this term. He has been a Governor since January 2011. He will be greatly missed by the Governors and we thank him for his valuable input during his time as a Governor. We wish him well for the future.



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.