



23rd March 2011

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

Governor Newsletter

Welcome to our newsletter—please read on!



Maths & Computing

Dates to note:

- Summer Term 16th April—20th July
- Half Term 4th June—8th June
- AS / A Level results—Thursday 16th August
- GCSE results—23rd August 2012

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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.

1st January 2012 was the 1st Anniversary of our Academy Status. Although we have had numerous new rules and regulations to adopt, some of which were being presented to us on an almost daily basis, everyone, staff and Governors alike have worked very hard to achieve the final results. All financial statements and annual reports have been completed and sent off on time.

The first Governors meeting in January was the Strategic meeting. More informal than the meetings, we sit around as a group with the Senior Management Team to discuss various aspects of the school that have been flagged up by Staff and Governors. More to follow. To conclude we wish you all a very happy Easter and to those who will face GCSEs and A Levels on their return to school we wish much success.



Diane Atkins
Chair of Governors

Strategic Thoughts!

In addition to the usual round of committee meetings, the Governing Body gets together every year to hold a Strategic Meeting, in which we share our thoughts about the longer term direction of travel of the school. This year ' meeting was held on 30th January and a lively discussion took place. It is clear that there are big fiscal challenges ahead, and the school needs to be in good shape in order to ' ride out the storm ' ! The forthcoming reduction in sixth form funding is perhaps the first indicator of the challenges ahead.

Proposed changes to the curriculum at KS3 and KS4 were discussed.

There is a great deal of other change afoot. The OFSTED framework is moving towards more targeted, or ' themed ' inspections – and parents will have the opportunity to raise directly with OFSTED any concerns they may have. However, the four key elements will remain as Achievement of Pupils, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour and Safety of Pupils, and Quality of Leadership and Management.

Further embedding Academy status was also discussed. Having submitted our very first End Of Year Annual Report and Financial Statement, we now have to move on to re-consider our Scheme of Delegation, which policies to retain and discard, and how to deliver the increased accountability that is required.

The latter is clearly helped by even greater understanding of and engagement in school business by the Governors. We are all conscious that this inevitably places even greater demands on us all!



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Full list of Governors:

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(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 Youings

Mrs Valerie Bryan

Clerk

Strategic Thoughts! Cont'd

Finally, it was unilaterally agreed that there was a need to establish a small Steering Committee in order to further develop these strategic themes, and which will report back to the main Governing Body. Key areas where further work was required included compliance, governance and performance; the Steering Committee will be focussing its efforts on these three areas over the forthcoming months.

Who's Who? John Raisbeck

How long have you been a Governor?

I have been a Governor since 2006. Although I feel I am well experienced in the field of education (see below), there are always new things to learn, a good example being the work involved when the school changed to Academy status.

What is it like? In addition to being a Governor, I have also been an exam invigilator so I feel I know the school well. This is the first time I have been a Governor and what have impressed me during my time at South Wilts have been the commitment, enthusiasm and knowledge of my fellow Governors. I am the Careers Governor and a member of the Curriculum Committee, my particular interest being the quality of the teaching and learning at the school. As part of our role the Committee visits the school 's departments on a regular basis, meeting staff and sitting in on classes. I can assure parents that their daughters ' education is in good hands!



Tell us a little about you. My first job when I left university was at the British Film Institute, cinema being my main interest. While I was at the BFI I started teaching film studies on a part-time basis and after leaving the Institute in 1974 I pursued a career in the education sector. From 1974 to 2001 I worked in Further Education colleges, first as a lecturer and later as a manager. It was my move to Salisbury College that brought me to this area. After 10 years at the College I joined the (now defunct) Learning and Skills Council as Quality Manager for Wiltshire and Swindon, retiring in 2006. My wife works for the Connexions Service and we have two children. Our son works in the music industry in London and our daughter, is currently studying German at university. Outside of my work at the school I enjoy reading, theatre, music and, of course, the cinema!

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.