



Maths & Computing

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

Governor Newsletter

22 December 2006

Issue 3

Welcome

Welcome back and welcome to parents of girls who have started at South Wilts this year. In this newsletter we try to keep you informed about some of the work of the Governing Body. This issue includes an article on the need for a long term view of the school's future and some of the current educational ideas that will require Governors' attention. We give an update on the work of the Resources Committee. We are also pleased to introduce Chris Whiteley who has been invited to join the Governing Body as his business experience will be valuable to us. At the

are sad to announce the departure of our non-teaching staff representative Mr Douglas Chapman. He was Network Manager for the school for over 12 years and on the Governing Body for seven years. He is a consummate professional and a hard worker. We know that South Wilts means a lot to him and he was a pleasure

to work with on the Governing Body. He retired at the end of October.

You will find further details about the school and the way that it works (including past Governors' newsletters) on the website. If you want to get in touch you can email the Governing Body (email address is given overleaf) or telephone any members of the Governing Body via the school.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year



Diane Atkins - Chair of the Board

THE FUTURE

Several, recently opened Christmas cards start with the surprised words "... it's come round so fast. Christmas and the New year are here already!" Yes, 2007 is only days away and the annual cycle of Governors' meetings will start again. At the beginning of each year there is a meeting that deals exclusively with one of the three roles of Governors - that of providing a strategic view.

Henry Kissinger once mused "If you do not know where you are going, every road will get you nowhere". This applies equally to individuals, businesses and schools. Providing a long-term, top-level plan of action for a school depends upon deciding what the school wants to achieve, setting aims, objectives and targets to help measure achievement and documenting all this in priority order

against a longish time scale.

For a state school, funded by the taxpayer it could be argued that there is little room for manoeuvre, for all that is required is to implement Government policy. Policy however, is designed to cover all schools under all circumstances. The Governing Body's role is to fine-tune policy in order to achieve the best results, in our case, for SWGS.

Here are some of the current and future educational issues that need thinking about

- ??types of school, ie Trust schools and Academies
- ??extended schools, lifelong learning, community education,
- ??Sustainability
- ??recruitment and retention of staff

Thankfully not all this list will be covered in one meeting in January and there are sure to be other topics that need consideration. It does show, however, that a careful approach is required in plotting the way ahead for SWGS.

One thing clear amongst all this crystal ball gazing is that we are all striving to support the staff and pupils in their endeavours to keep SWGS a highly successful, high achieving and caring school community.

It will be worth coming back to some of the above issues in later Newsletters and of course if you would like to raise any of your own ideas for the future please let us know. For the moment let's forget 2007 and enjoy what's left of 2006!

Dates to note:

- ??First day of term: Monday 8 January 2007
- ??TD days 15 & 16 February
- ??Half term 19 - 23 February
- ??Return to school 26 February

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
The Future	1
Ask a Governor	2
Who's who	2

In the future all our articles will be uploaded and linked to the school website, so that you can refer back to them.



South Wilts Grammar School
for Girls
Stratford Rd
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 3JJ

Phone: 01722 323326
Fax: 01722 320703
E-mail:
governors@swgs.wilts.sch.uk

Ask a Governor

What would you like to read about in this newsletter? In future issues we want to cover matters that are important to you – so, if you would like to:

- ?? hear more about any issues affecting SWGS, or
- ?? have a particular issue explained

just **Ask a Governor!** You can do this by contacting the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Valerie Bryan, at the school or sending an email to our address on this newsletter. In this newsletter the Chair of the Resources Committee, Chris Hewitt, outlines the work of this committee.

The Resources Committee

The Resources Committee consists of six Governors, including the Head, with the Bursar in attendance. The main role of the committee is to set and monitor the school budget which is now in excess of £4million. In addition extra funds are sometimes available such as the specialist schools grant which provided money towards the new Maths and IT block and the Wolfson Foundation which provided money towards refurbishing the science labs. We are able to roll over capital funding for major projects for up to three years which enabled us to finance the new Music block this year. We also approve and monitor the never ending stream of minor repairs and upgrades which are always needed in buildings, some of which are over 80 years old! Finally we are always grateful for the significant amounts of cash raised by the Friends of SWGS which over the years has added considerably to the quality of resources available to your daughters.

We are very sad to see the departure of Douglas Chapman from this committee as he retires. We wish him well in the future.

Who's who? - Chris Whiteley

Full list of governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins - Chair
Mr Wade Graham - Vice Chair
Mr Douglas Chapman - staff
Mr Bob Corcoran - parent
Dr Deborah Fenlon - parent
Mrs Mary Guest - partnership
Mr Chris Hewitt - partnership
Mr John Holland - partnership
Prof John Ilston - LEA
Mr Peter Jenks - parent
Mrs Lesley Knowles - parent
Dr Charles Penn - parent
Mrs Carolyn Stammers - teacher
Mrs Helen Stewart - parent
Mrs Frances Stratton - head
Mr David Sutcliffe - partnership
Mrs Judith Tallis - teacher
Mrs Peggy Trilsbach - co-opted
Mr Chris Whiteley - co-opted
Mr Stephen Worthington - parent
Mrs Valerie Bryan - Clerk

How long have you been a Governor at South Wilts?

I have recently been appointed so have only been a Governor since the beginning of this academic year.

What sort of Governor are you?

I am a Co-opted Governor, which means that I was asked to be a Governor. It was thought that my business background may be of benefit to the School (I am a Solicitor and Partner of Trethowans). I am also a parent and have a daughter in Year 7.

What roles do you perform as a Governor?

I was initially a Member of the Curriculum Committee and have attended one committee meeting. The Committee reviews the range of subjects taught at the school and the exam results. Members of the Committee also visit various classes/ departments to familiarise themselves with the way in which sub-

jects are taught. I recently attended my first full Governors' meeting, where it was decided that I would probably have more to offer if I was



transferred to the Personnel Committee. I am therefore waiting to find out what roles I will perform as a member of this committee.

Why did you become a Governor?

I have felt for some time that I would like to do more to help the local community. I therefore was glad of the opportunity to become a Governor and offer whatever help was needed. As I am also a parent, I am happy to assist the school in whatever way I can.

So what do you do in your spare time?

I find that my job and children leave very little spare time. However, I do manage to find time to go to the gym, go running and walking (usually up a mountain). I have done a number of walking trips and in July of this year walked up the highest mountain in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in Southern Spain. I also enjoy red wine, particularly Rioja!