



Maths &  
Computing

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All our articles are uploaded and linked to the school website, so that you can refer back to them.

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

# Governor Newsletter

Issue 6

12th December 2007

## Welcome

To parents of girls who have joined us this year a special welcome to South Wilts Grammar Schools Governors' Newsletter, to all other 'serving parents' welcome back to the new year at the school.

Terms One and Two are always busy for staff and girls, settling in again after the Summer break and this year the Governors have also been busy settling in. We welcomed six new governors when the year started in September. Everybody has now been introduced to one another, either at one of the committee meetings or the General Governor Meeting in November. The committees have elected their Chairs,

approved their Terms of Reference and been updated on all other aspects of a Governor's responsibilities. All they have to do now is get used to the jargon and acronyms, quite a steep learning curve!

There is of course one very im-



Diane Atkins - Chair of the Board

portant thing that has happened since the return to school in September, a visit from Ofsted. I'm sure you will already have read all about it from both the press and the school. The Governors were delighted with the 'Outstanding' classification and sent their congratulations to all staff, whether directly involved in the inspection or not, thanking them for their hard work. It was a magnificent achievement, by staff and girls.

Finally we would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Role of the Governing body: Views of a new Parent Governor

I have been a Parent Governor now for just over two months, and have already accumulated an overflowing box file full of paperwork, covering everything from Schemes of Delegation to the Governor's A-Z of Development Opportunities. First impressions: a daunting plethora of 'stuff' to read and digest! Despite the steep learning curve, I have already established that old fashioned common sense and the ability to apply one's own skills and experience, are also hugely important. In many ways, the role of a Governor is a simple one: the Governing Body takes the strategic view by establishing the policies and plans, whilst the headteacher and her staff

implement them. What is absolutely clear already (and borne out by the recent outstanding OFSTED inspection) is that SWGS has a Senior Management Team and Staff *par excellence*. Fortunately, the school does not have many of the problems faced by many other schools, albeit the high expectations of its pupils and parents bring with it a raft of other challenges. Parents are well represented on the Governing Body with no less than 7 Parent Governors come from a range of professional backgrounds (only a few from education), and bring an immense depth and breadth variety of experience and skills to the

party. They also include more than one ex-pupil amongst them, albeit they are somewhat shy about how long ago they attended! One of our key roles is to channel the views of the parents through to the Governing Body. If there is something that concerns you, or simply an aspect of the school that you wish to know more about, then please let us know. On the other hand, a word of thanks goes a long way; if something about the school pleases you, then tell us so that we can pass on your appreciation.

Chris Child



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## 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.

## Old Girls' Association

Many people have asked if we have an Old Girls' Association, but we currently do not have one. There would be many benefits to having such an association, including events where past pupils could get together and reminisce, rekindle old friendships or create networking opportunities, to fundraising for the school.

Getting an association going could require a lot of work and commitment and this might put people off getting involved. However, one possibility is to get an independent company to run the association, which would give us all the benefits without any of the headaches! To do this we would need to raise an initial amount of money to engage the company to get things going. At this stage we are just trying to find out how much interest there would be in this venture. If you are interested in any way, even if it is just to offer verbal support, please get in touch with Val Bryan -clerk to the governors.

Thank you.

### Full list of governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins - Chair  
Mr Wade Graham - Vice Chair  
Mr Chris Child - parent  
Mr Bob Corcoran - parent  
Dr Deborah Fenlon - parent  
Mrs H. Garside - parent  
Mr Chris Hewitt - partnership  
Mrs Helen Hollinghurst - staff  
Mr John Raisbeck - Local Authority  
Mrs Carolyn Stammers - teacher  
Mrs Helen Stewart - partnership  
Mrs Frances Stratton - head  
Mr David Sutcliffe - partnership  
Mrs Judith Tallis - teacher  
Ms Lisa Tinker - partnership  
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?

The post is new to me, having only recently been appointed in September 2007.

### What sort of Governor are you?

A Partnership Governor. I have worked for over 13 years as a tax advisor with Smith & Williamson Limited, Salisbury.

### What roles do you perform as a Governor?

Having only recently been appointed, I am still on that learning curve at the moment, but with an accounts and budgeting background, there should be some common ground and plenty for me to become involved in. After all, schools these days are operated like large businesses and so I hope to be able to bring some of my skills and understanding to the Resources Committee.

### Why did you become a Governor?

The opportunity arose to expand my professional interests and I took it. Having lived in Salisbury for 15 years now, South Wilts Grammar School was a school that I knew of but knew very little about. I have soon come to learn that it is an excellent school with high standards which I am proud to be associated with. I look forward to my Term of Office ahead.



### So what do you do in your spare time?

With a two and half year old daughter and working part time, a house full of animals, teenage stepson and a partner that works from home, there is very little spare time! What spare time I do manage to carve out for myself at the moment is spent decorating. We do like to meet up with friends and family when we can and I am always planning our next break away. Skiing in March is on the horizon, but with a toddler...maybe a week in the sun by the beach is a calmer option?

## Who's who? - Lisa Tinker