



Maths & Computing

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

Governor Newsletter

16th December 2008

Issue 1

Dates to note:

- 5th Jan 09—return to school
- 28th Jan 09 - Governor's Strategic Meeting
- 30th Mar 09 - Meeting of the Full Governing Body
- 20th Apr 09 - Meeting of the Full Governing Body

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

Welcome to our newsletter

A special welcome to all those parents whose daughters joined the school this year and welcome back for another year to all other parents. In our newsletters we try to keep you informed about the Governing Body and the work we do.

At the beginning of the school year there was an election to choose two Parent Governors. We welcomed the successful candidates at our first General Governors meeting, Mrs Susan Selby and re-elected Mr Bob Corcoran. Sadly I also have to announce that two of our retired, long serving governors, Dr Sheila Spedding and Mrs Mary Guest have died. Condolences have been sent from the School and Governors to their families.

All our committees have sat during the first two terms and their new year duties are completed. These include electing the Chair of Governors, Chairs of Committees and approving each committee's Terms of Reference. We were also pleased to receive last year's exam results. These were another set of outstanding results with many students exceeding expectations both at GCSE and A level.

As we reported in our last newsletter, we progressed to the next stage towards Trust Status in September. Parents, Staff and other Stakeholders were consulted. We held meetings in school for parents and staff which I and other Governors attended. The decision to join

the South West Academic Trust was made on the 15th December. We shall now join with Bournemouth Boys' Grammar, Colyton Grammar, Poole Grammar and Torquay Boys' Grammar Schools. 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 Governors

Parents Consultation Evenings & Parent Governors

As I am sure you are aware, one or more of the seven elected Parent Governors attends every Parents' Consultation Evening. They are available so that parents can raise any issues they may have with one of their representatives on the Governing Body. All concerns are brought to the attention of the School's Senior Leadership Team, and the next full meeting of the Governors. Indeed, there is a standing item on the agenda at all Governors' Meetings where any issues arising from Parents Consultation Evenings are discussed.

So, at the next consultation evening, please raise with the Parent Governor anything that concerns you about South Wilts, or simply just stop and have a chat!

Forthcoming Parents Consultation Meetings and Parent Governors attending are as follows:

- Wed 7th Jan 09 - Year 12
Chris Child
- Thu 15th Jan 09 - Year 13
Edward Richards
- Mon 26th Jan 09 - Year 11

- Helen Garside
Wed 25th Feb 09 - Year 9
- Steve Worthington
Mon 9th Mar 09 - Year 8
- Sue Selby
Thu 26th Mar 09 - Year 10
- Angela Brown



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Full list of governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins - Chair
Mr Wade Graham - Vice Chair
Mrs Angela Brown - Parent
Mr Chris Child - Parent
Mr Bob Corcoran - Parent
Mrs Helen Garside - Parent
Mr Chris Hewitt - Partnership
Mrs Helen Hollinghurst - Staff
Mr John Raisbeck - Local
Authority
Mr Edward Richards - Parent
Mrs Susan Selby - Parent
Mrs Carolyn Stammers - Teacher
Mrs Helen Stewart - Partnership
Mrs Frances Stratton - Head
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

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 by sending an e-mail to our address on this newsletter.

The Future - Some Wise Words From The Vice Chair

CREDIT CRUNCH.. GLOOM. DOOM..... don't worry it's NOT the economy, it's people that are the FUTURE or, more specifically, SWGS Staff and Students.

Helping during the recent selection of the new Assistant Head Teachers, it became clear to me just how important it is for candidates to show their future potential and, also, how much depended upon the team they would be joining to support them over the coming months.

The selection process involved a grilling by the School Council, the Head Girls and staff members, teaching a lesson and a formal interview. The result? Two excellent and skilled candidates with a vigorous willingness to learn, who, with the help and guidance of colleagues, will become the new Assistant Heads. In 2009 the SMT will be back up to strength leading the school.

Academic results are important markers for future careers, but it is equally important to develop the student's personal potential. To witness this potential, volunteer to help at the year 11 Mock interviews. I guarantee that any doubts you have about the future will be banished, as mine were, after "interviewing" four intelligent, confident young ladies. With young people of this calibre, supportive parents, a high quality staff led by a dynamic SMT the future is NOT dull, orange or gloomy. It is bright and full of promise.

Happy New Year. .

Who's who?



Who's who? – Susan Selby

Why do you want to be a Governor?

I volunteered to become a Parent Governor as I felt I wanted to contribute towards the school in some way. It was something I had often thought about doing, but somehow never quite got round to it!

What are your impressions so far?

I was appointed to the Board of Governors in October this year, and have attended 3 meetings, I have also been to the Governors induction course at Urchfont Manor. I have been made to feel very welcome as part of the Board of Governors, and my first impressions are that it is very well organised and structured. I can thoroughly recommend the course at Urchfont Manor - it was very informative and also hugely enjoyable. Having had limited exposure to the education system in the past, it was

very interesting to be given a deeper insight.

What about you?

By profession, I am a Finance Director of a multi-national electronics Company, which has an office in Salisbury. I live in Durrington with my family, and have always been local to the area. My interests include dog walking, the occasional trip to the gym, and generally spending time with the family. My daughter Melanie is in Year 11 at the school and has just sat her mock GCSE's – her aim is to continue on to the sixth form at South Wilts.