



Governor Newsletter

4th December 2009



Maths & Computing

Dates to note:

- 27 Jan 2010 - Meeting of the Full Governing Body (Strategy Meeting)
- 29th March 2010 - Meeting of the Full Governing Body
- 21st June 2010 - 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 refer back to them.

Welcome to our newsletter

As some of you will remember this Newsletter started some 3 years ago when the Annual Parents Meeting and lengthy Governor's Report was discontinued. In a large school such as this, there is always a great deal going on in the background that parents would like to know about. The Governing Body therefore felt that we still needed a vehicle for communication in order to let parents know what they had done on their behalf, and to answer any queries. There are, of course, other ways of keeping in touch. Governors are usually on hand at every Parents' Evening, and they will also welcome any individual contact by phone or e-mail through the Clerk to the Governors, Valerie Bryan.

It is worth noting that there have been two landmarks in the school calendar since our last Newsletter. In April, having gained High Performing School Status, we were awarded a second Specialism, Science. We also became a member of the South West Academic Trust (SWAT). Our membership was approved at the SWAT AGM in June, that I attended with Mrs Stratton. At this meeting, I was also appointed as a Director representing the School.

There have been one or two changes around the table since the last newsletter.

Parents' Consultation Evenings

You may be aware that one of our governors attends each and every parents consultation evenings. They are always keen to hear your views, so if you have any concerns about your child or the school in general, if you wish to pass on your thanks, or even if you want to know what governors get up to, then please stop by for a chat. You can be assured that any concerns are flagged up to either the school senior leadership team, or to the governing body. Attendance at forthcoming consultation evenings are as follows:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 7th January (Year 12) - Mrs Helen Garside | 1st March (Year 9) - Mrs Sue Selby |
| 11th January (Year 13) - Mr Edward Richards | 23rd March (Year 8) - Mr Chris Child |
| 2nd February (Year 11) - Mrs Angela Brown | |

At our June meeting, we said farewell to two of our longest serving governors. Mrs Peggy Trilsbach has served for over 20 years on the Governing Body, during which time she served as Chair and also headed up the Personnel Committee. Chris Hewitt has also recently stood down after 15 years on the Governing Body, having more recently done a sterling job as Chair of the Resources Committee. We are really very grateful to them both for all they have done for the school, and wish them

well. As some depart, others arrive and we have recently welcomed John Youings as a new Community Governor - more later.

Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved in the creation of the new Learning Resources Centre, which was officially opened on 1st December. I have not met anybody who isn't full of admiration for this superb facility; it really is a great asset to the School.

Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year!



Diane Atkins
Chair of Governors



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

Governing Body Committees

And so to what the Governing Body has been up to. The committees (Admissions, Curriculum, Personnel and Resources) have all recently met. (you may know that in addition to the regular full Governing Body meetings, governors also attend one (or perhaps two) of these committees).

At the last Admissions committee meeting, admissions arrangements for 2011/12 and the updated draft Admissions policy for the 2011 were considered and endorsed. Of interest, the Chair also provided feedback from the Admissions Forum at Trowbridge, which covers admissions policies for all Wiltshire schools. Along with Mrs Chilcott, Deputy Head, Mrs Atkins represents the Foundation School Sector (Secondary) at this forum, putting forward to Wiltshire Council concerns that matter to us.

The Curriculum committee precede their meetings with a departmental visit, their most recent being to the Maths and Geography departments. During such visits, governors may sit in on lessons, talk to the girls, discuss any areas of concern with the teachers and Head of Department, and so on. These visits are not 'inspections' but provide us with a necessary insight into what goes on in the classroom, what resources are available and what the teaching environment is like. At the last meeting, the committee focussed on compliance with Child Protection requirements, and considered the role of the Nominated Child Protection Governor (Mrs Helen Stewart). This role is hugely important nowadays and Child Protection is a priority for both the government and, of course, the Governing Body.

Full list of governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins - Foundation
(Chair)
Mr Wade Graham - LA (Vice
Chair)
Mrs Angela Brown - Parent
Mr Chris Child - Parent
Mr Bob Corcoran - Parent
Mrs Helen Garside - Parent
Mrs Helen Hollinghurst - Staff
Mr John Raisbeck - LA
Mr Edward Richards - Parent
Mrs Susan Selby - Parent
Mrs Carolyn Stammers - Staff
Mrs Helen Stewart - Community
Mrs Frances Stratton - Staff
(Headteacher)
Mrs Judith Tallis - Staff
Ms Lisa Tinker - Community
Mr Chris Whiteley - Community
Mr Stephen Worthington - Parent
Mr John Youings - Community
Mrs Valerie Bryan - Clerk

Who's who? John Youings — Community Governor



John Youings
Community
Governor

How did you come to be a Governor?

I was approached by a member of the teaching staff and asked if I would be willing to have

my name put forward as a Community Governor candidate. I had not previously considered such a proposition, but upon reflection thought I could make a contribution, through the Board of Governors, to the ongoing success of the School. Hopefully my business and personal experiences will help me do just that. I became a Governor on 1st September 2009.

So, how is it going?

It is very early days; I have attended Speech Day and one meeting of the Curriculum Committee - I have yet to attend my first full Governors meeting!

Prior to the Curriculum Committee meeting I attended a visit to the Geography Department. I was very impressed with both the equipment and the approach to learning. The tempo and energy of the classes I observed was very evident. I am sure this reflects the general standards of the School.

With only a limited exposure to the management of the School, it is clear to me that it is in good hands.

Tell us a little about you.

Well, I am a retired Civil Engineer and enjoyed a forty-year career with International Civil Engineering and Process Contractors. Latterly I was Managing Director of a company that designed and built large water and wastewater treatment plants around the globe.

I chaired the trade organisation "British Water" in the late 1990s and was a member of the Government's "Water Sector Advisory Group" until last year

I live in Redlynch with my wife Sheila. We have a son and a daughter of mature years!

I enjoy walking, playing golf and hockey, and devote a little time as a volunteer driver at Salisbury Hospital.