



Maths & Computing

### Dates to note:

Speech day: 20th September

Carol service: 18th December

First day of term:

- Friday 01.09.2006 am year 12 pm year 13
- Monday 04.09.2006 new year 7
- Tuesday 05.09.2006 yrs 7-11
- Wednesday 06.09.2006 yrs 12/13

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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.

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

# Governor Newsletter

Issue 2

7th July 2006

## Welcome

Here we are at the end of another school year. This is a brief review of governors activities this year. The Admissions Committee, in conjunction with BVWS, have reviewed the dates, entry procedure and arrangements for the 11+ in 2007, including changes to the catchment area.

The Curriculum Committee consider timetable and curriculum changes and review exam results and achievement data. During departmental visits governors watch lessons, have discussions with staff and hear if staff have any concerns. The work by Personnel Committee this year is reviewed overleaf.

## The Future

In this issue we are writing about the new Ofsted School Inspections.

Ofsted believes that schools are best placed to recognise their own strengths and weaknesses. The new system requires each school to demonstrate to the Inspectors that it can diagnose its strengths and any weaknesses and additionally is also able to do something to remedy the weaknesses and develop the strengths.

Ofsted is now intended to focus its inspections on the school's self evaluation. The self evaluation form is at the centre of the new inspection system. This form asks schools to:

The consideration of the budget, it's implications and implementation fall within the remit of the Resources Committee. Building projects, such as the long awaited music block, and more mundane maintenance work to generally improve the school environment, are all dealt with here.

Governors are invited to and



Diane Atkins - Chair of the Board

attend the many performances and exhibitions given by the girls throughout the year. Our thanks go to all staff for the hard work and commitment in making such a broad and balanced education for the girls.

This year has seen the birth of the Governor Newsletter. We welcome queries which we will attempt to address here and we would also like to remind you that a governor is on duty at all parents evenings to answer questions or pass on comments to the Governors at their next meeting.

Finally we hope you all have a good summer holiday and wish all the girls waiting for results in August much success.

- Evaluate their progress.
- Show the evidence on which the evaluation was based.
- Identify both the school's strengths **and** its weaknesses.
- Detail what it is doing to remedy the weaknesses and build on the strengths.

The new system differs in a number of other ways from the old system. The old system consisted of a large team, assessing the school over 5 days and giving 6-10 weeks notice. Now a small team comes for 2 days, reports on a limited aspects of the

school, making a shorter, sharper report, and gives only 2 days notice!

However, it is more frequent with a maximum of 3 year gap instead of 6.

The Inspectors are looking not only at academic achievement but also at the students' wellbeing including health, safety, enjoyment of learning and abilities to make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing. We are confident that all staff and governors are committed to the wellbeing of all South Wilts students.



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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. In this newsletter our Vice Chair, Wade Graham, explains about the function of the Personnel Committee.

As you can see from Who's Who below I am one of the governors who form the Personnel Committee (PC). The committee's main task is to ensure the Governing Body meets its employment responsibilities for all school staff.

However, although this is a wide-ranging remit it is only an outline of what the PC does. The following examples of work undertaken by the PC will hopefully fill in some of the details:

- Last year the Government changed policy on senior teacher's allowances, passing the implementation to individual schools. Changing pay and conditions in this manner resulted in a lot of hard work and consultation in a short period of time. The PC carefully studied the Head Teacher's proposal, suggested changes and responded to individual teacher's concerns before seeking Governing Body approval. The imposed deadlines were achieved and the new Teaching and Learning Responsibility allowance will be paid from September this year.
- Due to forthcoming retirement the Senior Leadership team structure had to be rearranged. This led to job adverts, interviews and selection before seeking Governing body approval.

I hope this shows that the Governing Body, supported by the PC, carries out its duty of care for school staff in a positive and thoughtful manner. It is a fascinating position and I can thoroughly recommend it to any volunteer.

### 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 Stephen Worthington - parent  
Mrs Valerie Bryan - Clerk

## Who's who?

### Wade Graham

#### How long have you been a Governor at South Wilts?

7 years this September

#### What sort of Governor are you?

I have been appointed a governor by the Local Education authority

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

My role is to help carry out the functions delegated to the full Governing Body and to assist the Chair by acting as Vice Chairman.

I also work with other members of the Personnel Committee to provide advice to the Governing Body on all personnel matters that concern the school.

#### Why did you become a Governor?

During the 10-year period that my daughters attended the school I was not at home very often and was unable to contribute to school life as much as I would have liked.



That has now changed and whilst helping the Design and

Technology department, as a Neighbourhood Engineer, I was very pleased to be "volunteered".

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

The birth of a second Grandchild was a great excuse to stop earning money and rush off to look after the new baby for a few months in Australia; my wife and I could now rush about for England. Additionally, as Gap years hadn't been invented back then we are having ours now!