



Maths & Computing

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

Governor Newsletter



16th July 2008

Issue 7

Dates to note:

- 24th July: End of Term 6
- 2nd September
Y12 only in school am
Y13 only in school pm
- 3rd September Y7 only
- 4th September Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13
- 5th September all years in school
- 17th September: Speech Day
- 17th December Carol Service

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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

We have reached the end of another busy and successful school year. However, we must cast our minds back to the start of the academic year. Last year the whole school community celebrated the 'Outstanding' result of our Ofsted Inspection, which was due to the hard work and dedication of everyone. This achievement set the scene for the school to continue with its success in all its activities, both curricular and extra curricular, over the rest of the year.

Further to our March Newsletter the latest update on Trust Status is that Governors have agreed to

go forward to the next stage. This is the Consultation with parents, staff and other stakeholders, which will take place in September.

The Summer term is dominated by exams at all levels and for much of the time the Silence notices are up somewhere in the school. However, there are many activities happening which give Governors the opportunity to come in to school and see what the pupils are doing. The Real Game Year 7, Enterprise Days Year 8 and Industry Days Year 9. These all show the ability of the girls to think hard and come up with ideas or solve

problems they have been set. Finally, to the girls waiting for exam results and to those who are leaving us, we wish you every success. We hope everyone has a good Summer holiday.

Diane Atkins - Chair of the Board

Looking Back to The Future

Reading about the future in July 2007's Newsletter is very satisfying because of the progress made; work that was then just a gleam in the eye, in many cases, has started and much needed refurbishment completed.

Recent visitors to school will have seen that revamping the front entrance and new canteen entrance has started, with the aim of completing this complex job in time for the start of the new school year in September.

Finance, detailed plans and permis-

sions are now ready for the Learning Resource Centre. This will provide a new library and networked computers; we aim to start building work in 2009. Trust status investigation has continued with the Governing Body discussing the legal, financial and management aspects. The Head Teacher returned from an exploratory meeting with the South West School's Trust board enthused about the benefits that the school will gain if South Wilts

joins. In September, all parents and staff will be asked for their comments on the Trust proposal. Although all this progress and future planning is important, it is only happening in support of the continual drive to improve the Teaching and Learning of your daughters now and in the future. More on T&L in our next edition.



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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
Dr Deborah Fenlon - Parent
Mrs H Garside - Parent
Mr Chris Hewitt - Partnership
Mrs Helen Hollinghurst - Staff
Mr John Raisbeck - Local
Authority
Mr Edward Richards - Parent
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

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 South Wilts, 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 Full Governing Body - 23rd June 2008

In previous issues, we have outlined the role of the Committees. In this short article, I aim to provide a 'taste' of what is covered at a typical full meeting of the Governing Body; the most recent meeting held on 23rd June was the ideal candidate!

The meeting was a full one, and started with a short presentation by Carolyn Stammers on Personal and Social Development, which is an increasingly relevant part of the curriculum. The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March were agreed; matters arising were few as the last meeting was almost entirely taken up with detailed consideration of Trust School status. Next followed reports from the Chairs of the Admissions, Curriculum, Personnel and Resources committees. Of note, the 2008/9 budget, was discussed and agreed, and the Best Value Statement endorsed.

An extensive written report by the Headteacher is provided at every full meeting. This report covers school progress and key policy issues in some detail. On this occasion, the report provided updates on issues ranging from International School links to the future selection of the school's second specialism. The Friends of South Wilts also came in for some well deserved praise. The meeting was then informed that the new School Improvement Partner, Mrs Clarke, a Headteacher from Kent, had visited. The Governors were provided with the latest published School Profile and an update was provided on Joint BWS/SWGS Sixth Form meetings. The meeting rounded off with a further discussion on Trust Schools, consideration of our future support to the National Grammar Schools Association, and a reminder that Speech Day will be held on 17th September.

And finally....The meeting also said farewell and 'thankyou' to Bob Corcoran and Deborah Fenlon; both are about to come to the end of their terms of office, and both have done a sterling job as Parent Governors! Stand by for an election of new Parent Governors in September.

Should you require more detail, the minutes of this and all meetings of the Governing Body and its Committees are available to read in the Clerk to the Governors' office.

Who's who?

Who's who? – Chris Child

How long have you been a Governor at South Wilts

Since late September 2007. Nearly one year on and the gradient of the learning curve is far less steep than it has been! Nevertheless, every meeting still opens up unfamiliar business that I need to understand.

What sort of Governor are you?

I am one of the 'batch' of 4 new Parent Governors that joined the Governing Body at the start of the last academic year.

What roles do you perform as a Governor?

I am a member of the Personnel Committee, where I endeavour to bring some previous experience in managing people to bear. I also, of course, attend the main Governor's meetings, and in addition, have recently been 'elected' Editor of this Newsletter!

Why did you become a Governor?

Simple: I want to contribute to, and help ensure the future success of, one of the best schools around! As an Army Officer, such voluntary activities are usually well supported and so far I have been able to contribute fully (well, I think so anyway!).

So what do you do in your spare time?

I have 4 children ranging in age from 5 to 13. The oldest is now in Year 8. Like many readers, I heavily subsidise their hobbies and social activities (with my time and money!), I therefore have little spare time (or money!) left! When I do find the time, I enjoy running, walking the hills, reading dull books, and the occasional therapeutic gardening or DIY. I also enjoy running book stalls in aid of charity at local events and in the workplace. Shameless plug: I am raising money for Help4Heroes at the moment, and am always grateful to receive donations of unwanted books!