



15th December 2010

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

# Governor Newsletter

Welcome to our newsletter—please read on!



Maths &  
Computing



Science

To parents of girls who have joined us this year a special welcome to South Wilts Grammar School Governors' Newsletter and to all our 'serving parents' welcome back to the new year at school. Term 1 is always very busy for staff and girls, settling in again after the Summer break. This year the Governors have also had a busy start; we usually have our General Governors Meeting just before Christmas but this year we had a special meeting at the beginning of September. The main agenda item was Academy Status. A sub group, Wade Graham, Helen Stewart, Edward Richards and myself, was set up to oversee the process. A little more on this later.



Diane Atkins  
Chair of Governors

In October, the Governors received Mrs Stratton's letter of resignation as Head Teacher; she plans to retire from 31st August 2011. The post has already been advertised in the Times Educational Supplement and interviews of prospective candidates will be at the beginning of February. A number of Governors will form the selection panel, and work is well underway to ensure that we select the very best candidate. We expect a great deal of interest in this highly regarded and very demanding post - Mrs Stratton will certainly be a very hard act to follow.

The regular Governors meetings have also taken place as usual. The Curriculum Committee has now been amalgamated with the Admissions Committee and were presented with yet another year of outstanding results both at GCSE, AS and A levels. Everyone concerned deserves to be congratulated on their success. The Personnel Committee was updated on staff changes, teaching and support training and the notable achievements of some of the staff during the year. The Resources Committee has dealt with a raft of Finance, Infrastructure, Catering and Health & Safety matters. All in all a very busy start to the new school year! As we now approach the end of another term, we would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Dates to note:

- Tuesday 4th January 2011—Return to school
- 28th March 2011—Meeting of the Full Governing Body
- 27th June 2011—Meeting of the Full Governing Body

## Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Academy Update	2
Who's who? Liz Wright Staff Governor	2

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  
Stratford Rd  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP1 3JJ

Phone: 01722 323326  
Fax: 01722 320703  
E-mail: governors  
@swgs.wilts.sch.uk

#### **Full list of Governors:**

**Mrs Diane Atkins**

**Foundation (Chair)**

**Mr Wade Graham**

**Authority (Vice Chair)**

**Mrs Julie Allen**

**Staff**

**Ms Lisa Ball**

**Community**

**Mrs Angela Brown**

**Parent**

**Mr Chris Child**

**Parent**

**Mrs Helen Hollinghurst**

**Staff**

**Mr John Raisbeck**

**Authority**

**Mr Edward Richards**

**Parent**

**Mrs Helen Stewart -**

**Community**

**Mrs Frances Stratton -**

**Headteacher**

**Mr Chris Whiteley -**

**Community**

**Mrs Elizabeth Wrighton**

**Staff**

**Mr John Youings**

**Community**

**Mrs Valerie Bryan**

**Clerk**

## Academy Update

The Governing Body of South Wilts Grammar School passed a resolution on the 6<sup>th</sup> December that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, the school will have Academy Status. The school will cease to be maintained by the Local Authority but will instead be funded and maintained directly by the Department for Education. This will mean that the school can retain the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant portion of its budget and the running of the school will be through an Academy Agreement with the Department for Education.

Academy status will provide more autonomy to decide how best to meet the needs of students, parents and the wider community. The Governing Body is determined to maintain the schools ethos and guiding principles and believes that Academy Status will enable the school to build upon its strengths. The curriculum, extra-curricular programme, school day, pastoral support and guidance and general organisation of the school will not be affected and collaborative working with our partner schools will continue.

South Wilts will also continue to be its own admissions authority, retain the published admissions criteria as a selective girls' grammar school, act in accordance with the Government's Code of Practice for Admissions and continue to consult on its Admissions Policy in accordance with the Code.

## Who's who? Liz Wrighton — Staff Governor

*How long have you been a Governor?*

I have been a Teacher Governor at South Wilts for almost a year. This is the second time I have been a School Governor; I was also a Governor at a local primary school for nine years.

*What is it like?*

It is an interesting role which gives a very different perspective on how the school is managed and run. I attend full Governor's meetings and am a member of the Curriculum and Admissions Committee. All the meetings are well organised and very purposeful. There are plenty of opportunities to discuss complex issues before decisions are made.

*Tell us a little about you?*

I have several interests and hobbies that keep me busy. I always have several knitting and sewing projects in progress. There are some knitted 'eyeballs' hanging on the door of the science workroom which are my handiwork but I normally stick to scarves and jumpers. (Ask the Year 7 students who have been to France recently – I can knit most of a jumper on the coach journey!). On Saturdays and Sundays I can often be found up the tower of my local church ringing one of the bells. This is a fairly new pursuit which, I have discovered, is much easier to learn when you are a teenager. I also enjoy walking, and recently walked the Kennet and Avon canal from Reading to Bath, albeit I did not do the 75 miles in one go! My current goal is to walk from Avebury to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire along the Ridgeway—so far I have got as far as Swindon!

