



December 2014

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

# Governor Newsletter

## Welcome to our newsletter



Diane Atkins  
Chair of Governors

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls  
Stratford Rd  
Salisbury  
SP1 3JJ

Phone: 01722 323326  
Fax: 0172 320703

E-mail: [governors@swgs.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:governors@swgs.wilts.sch.uk)  
[www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk)

To parents of girls who have joined us this year a special welcome to South Wilts Grammar School Governors' Newsletter, to all other 'serving parents' welcome back to the new year at the school.

We have had quite a lot of change on the Governing Body this term. At the beginning of the school year there was an election to choose a Parent Governor. We welcomed the successful candidate at our first General Governors Meeting, Mr Ian Burton. We have also welcomed Sarah Byerley and Jane Mackay who have been elected Staff Governors. Finally, and more recently, Stephen Kidner joins us as a co-opted Governor.

This year we are saying farewell to a long serving governor, our Vice Chair Wade Graham. His connection with the school began when his daughters joined, the first in 1977. At this time his work took him away from Salisbury for a time and he missed out on a lot of school involvement. When he was back in Salisbury, he helped in D & T as a Neighbourhood Engineer. In 1999 he was 'volunteered' to become a Local Education Authority Governor. He made quite a stir arranging for a helicopter to land on the school playing field for a science/IT noise measurement lesson. Wade has many happy memories of South Wilts. Stunning school music, year on year great results, both academic and cultural with a very committed staff. He does not however mention how much time and dedication he has put into South Wilts during his time as a Governor, Chair of Personnel and Vice Chair of Governors. Many thanks from us all.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors of South Wilts, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Diane Atkins, Chair of Governors

### Did you know?

All our articles will be uploaded and linked to the school website, so that you can refer back to them.

## Welcome to our new Governors

Sarah Byerley  
Staff Governor



Ian Burton  
Parent Governor



Stephen Kidner  
Co-opted Governor



Jane Mackay  
Staff Governor



## A final note from Wade ...

For my final article I would like to comment on the key roles of a Governor as I have experienced them at SWGS.

### Providing a strategic view

Ensuring that the school's aim of high academic and cultural success, coupled with care and consideration, is achieved year on year seems a good vision for the future. But watch out for the bureaucrats who demand mission statements with all the paraphernalia of consultant speak and ensure that sensible practice and innovation is not deadened by too much OFSTED target setting and social engineering.

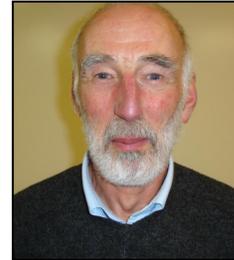
### Acting as a critical friend

As a friend, Governors must know the school, its weak points as well as its strengths. Seeing any threats and opportunities before they occur is also important. Offering support and constructive advice, whilst seeking to arrive at the best solution for all, is the key which must be achieved without blurring the Governance/Management boundary.

### Ensuring accountability

As a new Governor it was stressed that the Governing Body was accountable to parents for providing good quality education. There can be no doubt that a SWGS education is of the highest standard due to continuing excellent leadership and staff commitment. However, the responsibility is not just to parents. I believe that we are all, Governors, staff and parents, accountable to the current and future SWGS girls who I am certain will hold us all to account, now and for many years to come.

Wade Graham,



## And an introduction from our new Vice Chair ...



I have served on the Governing Body since 1999 and have, during that time, been Chair of the Curriculum Committee and am presently Chair of Personnel and Admissions. Over the years the school has gone from being a Local Authority school to an Academy – a seismic change in terms of its governance and the role and responsibilities of the Headteacher. Michele Chilcott is the third Headteacher during my time as a governor and as Vice Chair of Governors I will continue to support her and her staff in providing the excellent education and pastoral care for the girls.

Salisbury became my home in 1992. Two of my daughters have attended SWGS. Sarah and Holly both recognise, as they continue to develop their careers, that SWGS provided them not only with a first class education but a very strong work ethic alongside other core values.

I have worked for 16 years as a Bursar in a Salisbury school. I consider myself very fortunate to both work in the education sector and live in such an interesting city. In my spare time I enjoy walking my dog in the countryside around Harnham and spending as much time as possible at the weekends by the coast with my family and friends.

Helen Stewart



Wishing you all a very  
Happy Christmas and a  
Peaceful New Year