



Maths &
Computing

Dates to note:

21st April: start of term 5
5th May: Bank Holiday
23rd May: end of term 5
2nd June: start of term 6
3rd May: SWGS / BWS Joint Concert
24th July: end of term 6

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

South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

Governor Newsletter

Issue 6

27th March 2008

Welcome

We always start our New Year with the Governors Strategic Meeting. At this meeting we discuss new Government initiatives and any that we feel are suited to South Wilts we either adopt or investigate further later in the year at an appropriate committee meeting.

We discussed our redesignation as a Specialist Maths and Computing College and were delighted to hear that our submission met the performance criteria and redesignation standard. The school is therefore redesignated for the next three years.

Curriculum development from the implementation of the new Key Stage 3 curriculum in September 2008 to new A Levels, Diplomas and Baccalaureate, which will be brought out shortly, were also on the agenda.

As I said this meeting is the



Diane Atkins - Chair of the Board

time to look at new initiatives. Good ideas come and go and we try to concentrate on our educational responsibilities and not be diverted by the latest trends. However, Trust Status could well prove the exception, a good idea, with possible advantages for our school, its students and staff. Easter is topsy turvey this year so we are too late to wish you a Happy Easter, however we hope you all have a good holiday and wish everybody luck with their impending exams.

The Future - Trust school status?

TRUST status for schools was introduced by the 2006 Education and Inspection Act.

By joining with other organisations, with appropriate skills and expertise, the whole educational experience can be made more rewarding for all concerned.

SWGS has been invited to join the South West Academic Schools' Trust whose members are Colyton Grammar School, Bournemouth School for Boys, Poole Grammar School and

Torquay Boys' Grammar School with Exeter University.

The schools involved remain funded by the Local Authority but additionally will be supported and protected by charitable trust status. They will teach the National Curriculum and be inspected by OFSTED.

By collaborating, the members of the South West Trust, who all have a common interest in developing the educational opportunities for able students, will be able to provide im-

provements that could not be achieved by the individual members. For example

- sharing of good practice
- research opportunities for students and staff
- curriculum development to improve the transition from school to higher education

This may be a "good idea" whose time has come, providing an additional asset to the future of SWGS.

Start looking at www.ssatrust.org.uk/trustschools to find out more on Trust Schools



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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 previous issues we have described the work of the different subcommittees of the governing body. We have covered Resources, Admissions and Personnel. These can all be found on the website in back issues. In this issue we cover the work of the Curriculum Committee.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee meet once a term and have delegated responsibilities to oversee the school curriculum and review and, when necessary, revise a number of the school policies. Additionally the Senior Leadership Team briefs the Committee on statistics and performance data, timetable issues and examination results. Before each meeting a visit is organised to one or two departments for the committee members to see first hand life in the classroom and talk to the teachers. In the past year departments visited have been business studies, classical civilisation, art, PE and music. These visits are always very informative and worthwhile and help ensure discussions and actions taken by the committee are put into context.

Who's who? - Stephen Worthington

Full list of governors:

Mrs Diane Atkins - Chair
Mr Wade Graham - Vice Chair
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
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

How long have you been a Governor at South Wilts?

I was appointed a governor in September 2006.

What sort of Governor are you?

A Parent Governor. I have lived in Salisbury over 12 years and I am a general manager in the Telecoms industry.

What roles do you perform as a Governor?

I am member of the curriculum committee as well as the main governing body. Within the curriculum committee we discuss many topics including curriculum

topics including curriculum updates, changes in policy and performance statistics. On



occasions we are invited to attend lessons in various departments as observers which I find extremely interesting and very useful.

Why did you become a Governor?

I have a daughter who attends

SWGS and therefore have a personal interest in the schools performance and the general welfare of all the students. I have always been interested in teaching myself and therefore the opportunity to become a governor was very appealing.

So what do you do in your spare time?

With my spare time I enjoy working on my home. I like decorating and DIY but my main

interest is motor sport. I own a large touring motor-bike which I try to ride at every opportunity mainly around the UK but would like to visit Europe.