

Governor News November 2016

We're slightly overdue for a termly update so apologies for that. Firstly, we've some new faces on the governing body so time to welcome James Barber as our new foundation governor and Roger Shaw as our new co-opted governor. James' priority as a foundation governor is to ensure our Church of England ethos remains high on the agenda of the school but he also brings years of experience working for KCC and, more recently, Project Salus, with a particular focus on vulnerable children. He also has an interest in outdoor learning which will prove useful with our current focus. Roger has recently moved to the village on retirement from a career in business. His expertise is in the finance area which is one of our core responsibilities as governors so he will be a key face on the finance committee.

So the full governing body is now as follows:

Hester Fenwick (Chair) – Parent Governor
Mick Taylor (Vice Chair) – Local Authority Governor
Emma Keating – Parent Governor
Peter Heckel – Parent Governor
Jo Mortimer – Parent Governor
Rev. Richard Le Rossignol – Foundation Governor
James Barber – Foundation Governor
Jasmine Stewart – Co-opted Governor
Roger Shaw – Co-opted Governor
Vincent Chan – Headteacher
Andrew Stapley – Staff Governor

On the school website, there are short bios for each governor along with more details about which committees they sit on and any specific responsibilities they have, along with attendance records for the meetings.

We have three core responsibilities as governors:

- Finance – we overview the finance of the school to ensure it's being managed responsibly.
- Strategy – we work with the Headteacher to make sure the school has a clear direction and resources are used to support this.
- Supporting and challenging the Headteacher – we have to make sure the Headteacher is doing his (or her) job as well as they can. That means we act both as a support in talking through issues they want to discuss but also that we should challenge them to improve the school and support all the teachers and staff to improve too.

Last year I wrote a bit more about each of these in more detail but if you'd like to find out more, I'm more than happy to bore anybody senseless on the subject!

Clearly, at the moment, our biggest task is to find the right person to lead the school forward as the new Headteacher. We have a selection panel of five of the above governors who are responsible for this and we work with a local authority advisor and an advisor from the diocese who support the process and are present at both short listing and interview to ensure we have expert input. The good news is that since we extended the deadline, we have already had a further six potential applicants look round the school with another booked in for next week. If they do all decide to apply, we will have a much stronger pool to short list from and we're extremely hopeful that 'the one' is in that pool. Final interviews will be at the end of November so we'll update you after that.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about anything to do with school governance, please let me – or any of the governors – know.

Thanks,

Hester