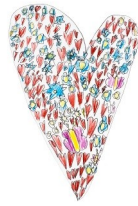




Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write on behalf of the Governing Board to update you all on recent changes to our membership.

We have been delighted to welcome two new school governors to the team at the end of last year. Rebecca Lamb was elected as a new parent governor, and Emma Standen has joined as a co-opted governor. We looked forward to working with them over the coming months.

Unfortunately, we also have to say thank you and goodbye to two of the longest serving members of the Board, as both Ellie Brown and Rob Muskett joined us for their final meeting in December. Ellie and Rob have been incredibly important to the Board over the last several years. Amongst many other contributions, Ellie served as co-chair for the last couple of years, and Rob led the recruitment process for current headteacher Mrs Foster. I've included messages from them both below. I hope to have news about our two remaining vacancies soon.

Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

James Coumbe

Chair of Governors

A message from Ellie

After six very rewarding years, I will be stepping down from the Governing Board, including the last two years serving as co-chair. It has been a real privilege to support and serve our school community, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have played a small part in its journey.

I feel incredibly lucky to have worked alongside such a committed, thoughtful and hard-working group of current and past governors. Their dedication, time and care for the school are inspiring. I have also greatly valued working closely with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, and all the staff, particularly during the recent Ofsted inspection. Seeing the professionalism, teamwork and unwavering focus on pupils and whole school community during that time was truly impressive.

One of the greatest joys of my role has been meeting so many members of staff and, of course, the children! Hearing pupils speak so passionately about their learning and their experiences at school, and making sure those experiences are then woven into the school's evaluation and development plan, has been a wonderful reminder of why school governance matters so much.

School governors play a vital role in supporting and challenging schools, helping to set strategic direction, ensure accountability and champion the best outcomes for every child. Being a governor is an opportunity to give back, learn new skills and make a meaningful difference. I'm lucky to move on with the knowledge that I leave behind a strong board, and to make way for some fantastic new governors to join.

A message from Rob

It's with a sense of sadness that I will be stepping down from the governing board after 6 years. Unfortunately a new job combined with coaching an u10 and district football team has just meant I can no longer do justice to the role that it deserves.

It is an incredibly interesting and rewarding role. It gives you a real insight into what actually goes on at school and the chance to influence it. In the last 6 years we have had Covid, and the immense challenges that came with it. Meetings via Zoom and being unable to visit the school meant we had to hold the school to account in different ways.

We have also had a change of Headteacher. Leading the recruitment panel, working with our old Chair Rachel and Safeguarding Lead Hannah and feeling the weight of responsibility for picking the person who would lead a staff team of over 60 and more than 400 children, was a real eye opener into just how rigorous the process is.

Two full days where we put candidates through their paces with assemblies, visions for the future and what approach to take to various different challenges, meant that when I had to speak directly with each person to tell them the good/bad news, I was able to do so with real confidence that we had got the right person.

I hope you agree we made a very good choice. Watching Mrs Foster in action in leadership meetings, speaking with her during her performance appraisal and seeing her with the children and the respect they have for her and her knowledge and love for teaching means, I believe, we are lucky to have her and the recent Ofsted report supports this view.

Being a governor is not easy - you need to be prepared to challenge the school and take the time to understand the approach the school is taking for different topics. The school welcomes those challenges, we have a leadership team who engage fantastically well with the governors, help us get up to speed with different topics and allow us to visit the school, talk to teachers and pupils openly and ask those difficult questions.

It gives us a sense we are part of the team, the amazing Christmas card from the children, being invited to Christmas lunch, being able to speak to the children about their work and what they like/don't like about the school is such a unique opportunity, that the rewards are definitely worth the work that goes in.

Like picking the team and tactics for my u10s, we and the school, may not always get it right. But after 6 years I can say with full confidence that the school and governing board are fully aligned with the vision of inspiring a love of learning in every pupil through the designed curriculum for the Head, Heart and Hand.

I will miss it and our fantastic governor team led jointly by Ellie and James and now James going forward, but I hope I leave the role with the school in a better position than when I joined 6 years ago. To be a small part of that journey will always be one of my best achievements in life.