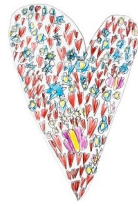




Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand



Dear Parents/Carers/School Community,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have joined Lady Joanna Thornhill since we last wrote. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community.

As we welcome many new joiners to the school each year, we thought it might be helpful to provide a refresher on what school governance is and what the Governing Board does. The Governing Board has three key functions:

- 1 ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school,
- 2 holding the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and
- 3 overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring that money is spent for the benefit of the children's education.

Above all, governors are responsible for the school at a strategic level, rather than operational and day to day matters.

Last year, we set a three-year governance strategy. The aim of this strategy is to provide direction for senior leaders of the school, to feed into the school's development plan and gives us clear objectives.

The governance strategy sets out what we aim to achieve under three headings: children inclusivity and community. **Children** are at the heart of everything we do, and our aims and objectives relating to the children align with the school's vision and ethos. Aiming for the school to be **inclusive** is an intrinsic part of both the school's strategy and our governance strategy. As a community school, we also feel very strongly that **community** and relationships should be at the core of our strategy.

You can find more information about the school governors – who we are and what we do, and read our strategy - [here on our website](#)

Changes to the Governing Board

We also wanted to provide you with an update on changes to the composition and membership of our school Governing Board.

Firstly, we are excited to introduce our new parent governor, Adam Priestly. Adam has two children currently attending Lady J, with a third starting in September. We believe Adam brings valuable skills and experience to the Board, and have included a few words from Adam overleaf.

Since we last wrote to parents, we have said goodbye to Maria Olukoya, one of the schools co-opted governors, due to changes in her personal circumstances which meant it was no longer possible for her to commit her time to the Governing Board. Maria's experience in both mental health support and her charity work were incredibly valuable to our team.

Following our move to the co-chair model, the Board has agreed to the creation of an additional governor role, to ensure that we have sufficient capacity to carry out our duties. This means that with a full membership the governing board comprises 2 parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor, 1 staff governor, 1 Headteacher, 4 co-opted governors, and 2 foundation governors. All governor roles are voluntary roles.

At present we have one vacancy for a co-opted governor. This role is ideally suited to someone who is not a parent of a child at the school. If you know anyone who might be interested in meaningful voluntary work, please encourage them to contact us, or any of the governors for an informal chat.

Governors' Activities

Our governors have continued their duties with regular monitoring visits and involvement in various school activities. We have been learning about different aspects of the school, making key decisions, including agreeing the budget, and supporting the school in numerous ways.

One of the co-chairs, Ellie, carried out a wellbeing monitoring visit this week, meeting with the headteacher, senior leadership team, members of the teaching staff, the pastoral and inclusion team, teaching assistants and some very enthusiastic year 6 pupils. The aim was to ask questions around wellbeing to find out how this is embedded into school life, processes and the curriculum. Promoting and ensuring the wellbeing of our whole school community is extremely important to us.

Monitoring visits are a key way for the Governing Board to fulfil their role of holding the school leaders to account, evaluating how policies are implemented and how the school's priorities are given effect in real life.

SATS

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the children for their hard work and efforts during the SATS. We eagerly await the results and are proud of the dedication shown by our students and teachers.

Next term

The next term promises to be busy and exciting, especially for our Year 6 students who will be preparing for their transition to secondary school and the school play. We appreciate the efforts of everyone involved, including the Friends, parents, and staff, in organising the end-of-school preparations and celebrations.

Please keep an eye out for a survey from the governors. Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to improve our school.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the teachers, governors, and the entire school community. Your continuous support makes serving the school a real privilege. We hope everyone has a lovely bank holiday and half term and enjoys some good weather!

Best wishes,

James Coumbe & Ellie Brown

Co-Chairs of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Board

From Adam Priestley, our new parent governor:

It's an absolute privilege to be appointed to the board of Governors for Lady J. I have 2 of my children in the school now, and in September I'll have all 3 at Lady J. I'm motivated to commit my time and effort to contribute to the continual improvement of the school and their place in the Wye community. I have a career in law enforcement and believe I can share my knowledge and experience with the school to positive effect. I'm excited to work as a member of the board and be a representative of the parents of children attending Lady J.