



Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand



Dear Parents/ Carers/ School Community

I hope you are all well and enjoying being back at school. To our new families and staff who have joined us, a very warm welcome to you all. This newsletter comes earlier than our usual end of term newsletters. There have been a number of changes to our Board that I would like to inform you about.

After three and a half years on the Governing Board, I am saddened to announce that I have decided to step down both as Chair of Governors and governor. It hasn't been an easy decision and will miss it, the children, the staff and my visits to the school very much.

I am, however, absolutely delighted to say that Ellie Brown and James Coumbe have agreed to step up to become Co-Chairs, which has the unanimous support of the Board. Both have years of experience as governors and are extremely able to lead the Board to great success. I wish them all the best. Steve Lloyd, our Local Authority Governor, continues as Vice Chair.

There are also some other changes to our Board.

Ellie Brown has moved from co-opted governor to Foundation Governor

Stephen Cartwright, Assistant Principal of the Marsh Academy has been co-opted onto our Board as SEND and Curriculum Governor. He brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in the area of SEND and is currently seconded to KCC SEND one day a week as Transition Lead.

Maria Olukoya, an adolescent mental health nurse and CEO (Holiday. Activities and Food programme) at the Ashford BME Association has also been co-opted onto our Board as Curriculum, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Wellbeing Governor. Her experience in mental health and involvement in her charity is a very welcome addition to the Board.

Emily Burrell, the School's Inclusion Lead has been voted in as Staff Governor.

We welcome our new governors on board at this very exciting time and I wish them all well. All our previous Newsletters can be found on our website page, along with other useful information about the Board. Please do take a moment to have a look.

On a personal note, I want to give my heartfelt thanks and express gratitude to the following people as I step down- my predecessor Kate Freeman, Alan Norley and the Chairs from the CARE Group, the Thornhill Trust governors, governors who were previously on the board but have subsequently left- Carly Rupert-Lingham, Sue Soan, Hannah Rowe, Matt Toombs, Sharon Ward, all our current governors and in particular Steve Lloyd, Rob Muskett, James Coumbe and Ellie Brown. And last but not least, our Headteacher Rachael Foster. All have been incredibly supportive and made my job as Chair of Governors so much easier!

A big thank you to the children, parents/carers and the Friends who have always made me welcome at the school and to all the staff and SLT for your hard work for the school.

Finally, I want to wish the school all the best. The school has gone on the most incredible journey over the last three years, almost unrecognisable from when I first joined as Chair in March 2020. These changes are not only physical, with new carpets, LED lighting, whiteboards, outdoor learning areas and performing arts studio to name a few, but also in areas of leadership, curriculum, assessment, data, SEND and Early Years.

I have no doubt the journey to success will continue and can't wait to see that- as a parent! Please do still give me a friendly wave if you see me in the playground!!

Warmest regards

Rachel Chan