



Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand



Dear Parents/Carers/the School Community

What a busy year it's been! We hope this newsletter finds you well. As the school year comes to a close, we want to thank you all for your continued support of the school.

The past two terms have been very busy for governors. Meetings have continued; we have all undertaken monitoring visits, mostly in person and have been able to continue to challenge and support the school in our role as governors.

I, as Chair of Governors, was delighted to have been invited to the concert that took place at the Ashford International Hotel, where I watched a number of children from the school perform with other schools from the CARE group. Given that there had been no opportunities to rehearse together, I was impressed by the children's ability to work collaboratively to put on a performance that was both polished and professional.

We have continued to read with joy our successes in sports and competitions, and many of us were able to attend sports day for the first time in three years.

Governors were recently invited to attend an afternoon at the school where we met with children across the year groups, as well as teaching assistants and teachers, before holding a three-year strategy meeting followed by our last Full Governing Board meeting of the year. We want to thank the children who met us. They were extremely well behaved, polite, articulate and a massive credit to the school and to you as parents/carers. We loved hearing about what they had learnt in Years 3 and 5 science, their favourite lessons, looking at their books which were beautifully presented and how these linked to the school's vision of learning for the Head, Heart and Hand. Year 4 told us what they considered were the rights that were the most important to them. One little girl told us that the most important right for her was the right for all children to be free from war and conflict. We also spoke to the Head Boy, Girl and the deputies about their roles. Each were able to articulate what the school values and the rules were and the changes they have seen in the school across the years, having experienced leadership now under three Headteachers. Key stage one children enchanted us, sharing that they hoped that the hurdles could be higher at sports day because they were far too low! Our final discussions were with some members of the School Council. We were particularly impressed by their fundraising abilities and how they were courageous advocates representing their respective classes admirably. They were also given an opportunity to ask Governors questions and we were definitely put through our paces with their insightful and probing questions, including what did we actually do that helps them!

In the last newsletter, I said I would explain a little bit about what the Thornhill Trust do. They, like the Governors, meet regularly and are an integral part of the school. Their involvement has been steeped in history, dating back to Lady Joanna's 1708 will, which bequeathed a sum of money to help educate children in Wye. To date, the Thornhill Trust continue to support the school financially. This year alone, they have provided funds for books which have had a very positive impact on the children's reading and school trip for a child.

Before I finish up with my usual thanks, I am super proud to announce that one of our number have had their hard work recognised with a CBE in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours this year, a piece of knowledge that I stumbled upon by complete chance. It is, of course, the wonderful Matt Toombs, (who you can read more about overleaf) for public service.

I hope you will all join me and the Governors in congratulating him on his massive achievement (and medal). Well done Matt, what a fantastic achievement!

On that happy note, I want to thank the children, parents/carers, the Friends (who have been incredible with all their fundraising attempts), the CARE group and Thornhill Trust for their continued support and all the staff, SLT and Ms Foster who have worked so hard. I want to thank the Governors who are all volunteers and have continued to work hard in the background for the benefit of the children and our clerk Casey who is a wealth of knowledge and support at our meetings.

Finally, I want to say thanks on behalf of the Governors to Mrs Butler for her dedication to the children and hard work for the school over a number of years. We wish her all the best in her new role in New Romney, who will no doubt benefit from her expert knowledge. We will miss you!

Wishing those of you who are moving to secondary schools in September all the best, and hope you all have a restful summer break.

Rachel Chan

On behalf of the Governing Board

Meet the Governors...



Rachel Chan Rachel is Chair of the Governing Board and has been a governor at the school since March 2020. She has four children; two of whom are at the school. She is a family law barrister at 42BR and sits as a Lay Magistrate in London. Rachel is a Foundation governor, the SEND governor and a Curriculum monitoring pair with Matt Toombs and is delighted to be part of an active governing board who are passionate about inspiring a love of learning in each pupil.



Matt Toombs Matt has been a co-opted governor since December 2019. He lives in Wye, has three children, two are currently in the school. Matt is a civil servant who organised the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow last year, after working on post 18 funding reforms at the Department for Education. He was delighted to receive a CBE this summer for these roles. Matt is the wellbeing governor and a curriculum monitoring pair with Rachel Chan, and is very pleased to contribute to a governing board that is focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for all children at the school.