

LJS GOVERNOR

Working for you

Summer 2015



The end of an era...

goodbye Miss Thompson!

"The goal is always excellence." Pat Thompson told the Huddersfield Examiner when she received their Teacher of the Year Award on 3 June 2015. To this end she has lead by example; for the past 27 years Miss Thompson has been an exceptional headteacher who has generated success by maintaining high standards of teaching and learning within a caring and supportive environment.

The Governing Body would like to thank Pat for her outstanding service which has allowed the school and its pupils to flourish. Under her leadership the school has enjoyed a well-deserved reputation and was rated as outstanding by Ofsted during their last inspection in 2008.

We wish Pat all the best for a happy, fulfilling retirement. We would also like to remind her that she is allowed to relax and put her feet up from time to time!

...and a big thank you to our Chair of Governors

Steph Potts became a governor in her early 20s because she wanted to get involved in the local community. She is a former pupil of LJS whose commitment to the school she loves has been enormous. Steph has been Chair of Governors for the last three years and will be leaving us when her term ends in July. The Governing Body would like to thank Steph for all her hard work and dedication to the school. We wish her every success for the future.





Meet

Hannah

Cunningham

Staff Governor

I have worked at school as a teacher for nine years and was elected as a Staff Governor just over 18 months ago. In previous years I'd always been put off from applying for the role as I felt there were much more experienced colleagues who could offer much more. When the post came up again however I decided to go for it and am really pleased that I did. As a member of staff there is always lots going on behind the scenes that you are unaware of and becoming a Governor has made me mindful of how much there is involved in running the school. It's also given me the opportunity to find out the reasons behind decisions made on behalf of the school which have an impact upon children, myself and colleagues.

The Governors have a wide range of professional skills and work incredibly hard to ensure that the decisions they make are in the best interests of children and staff. Since becoming an academy the role they play has become even more important and they are aware of the responsibility this entails.

Outside of school I enjoy the great outdoors - walking, climbing and camping. I'm also expecting my first child which will no doubt keep me busy and provide me with a whole new range of experiences once they arrive!

I would encourage any potential candidates for the role of Parent or Staff Governor to apply and become involved. It can sound like a daunting task at first however we really are a friendly bunch and your support and input will be greatly appreciated.

When I read the invitation for the Election of Parent Governor in the school newsletter it felt like an opportunity to me. I am always keen to learn about my son's education and this would be a possibility to see how the school works from the inside. So I filled in the form, obtained two supporters and became a Parent Governor in May 2013.

I soon found out that the role of school Governors is absolutely vital. The school uses the Governors as their critical friend, which gives a great sense of responsibility. I really feel that my free time should be devoted to the pupils' education and development. As well as the full Governing Body, I am also a member of two committees and the discussion we have at all meetings is always very friendly, open and constructive.

Being a School Governor has also offered the opportunity to develop new skills. As a Parent Governor, I have learned to use my skills to good effect and enjoy knowing that children will benefit. Since becoming an Academy, the Governing Body acts more like a corporate board so we need a mix of competencies and experience. No single person or small group of individuals dominates decision making and I think our Governing Body ticks all boxes.

It also offers various opportunities to attend school events. I attended the school disco, Gaelic Football, Christmas performance and more recently the visit to Chester Zoo.

I feel very happy to lend my hand for school growth, making a real difference to the pupils' day to day lives. When I look back to the day of applying to be a school Governor it was scary, but not anymore. I am now more than confident that I can undergo the same when my son moves to high School.



Meet

Pallavi

Phadke

Parent Governor