

# GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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*"Striving to be the best  
we can guided by the  
light of Christ"*

## Welcome to our Second Newsletter!

From the chilly start in Term 3 to the joyful Easter celebrations at the end of this Term 4, we have been delighted to see the progress our pupils are making in all areas of the new curriculum. We are very proud of the efforts of the staff to embrace the change and have very much enjoyed seeing pupils' enthusiasm, especially in their writing. There's always room for improvement and as a governing body we are working to support the School to be the best we can.

As we celebrate Easter with our friends and families, may you all be blessed with happiness and peace.

*The Governing Body of St Bon's*

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## Governor Meetings

The full governing body meets once a term but governors are involved with the School throughout the year. This time we are going to focus on the 3 main committees: Standards, Management Equality & Child Protection (**MECP**) and Finance Premises Health and Safety (**FPH&S**). We've set out the key functions of each of these committees below:

**Standards:** This committee's main focus is to challenge the School Leadership Team on school improvement and the progress and attainment of pupils to ensure that all pupils reach their potential. Pupil data is presented to this committee 3 times a year so that both achievements and areas of improvements are identified and monitored.

**MECP:** This committee's work has significantly increased with the new performance related pay requirements for teaching staff. MECP is responsible for overseeing all matters relating to the management of staff but also deals with ensuring robust child protection policies and procedures and equality/inclusion of all.

**FPH&S:** The clue is in the name for this committee. All matters financial are monitored by this committee. The new build has been a significant area of work and the committee is now heavily involved with the works to the grounds. FPH&S keeps an eye on the budget and helps to set it each May.

We do have other smaller committees that deal with items such as Admissions, Performance Management and Complaints and if you'd like further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Clerk.

*"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."*



## Spotlight on our Governors

All governing bodies are required to reconstitute by the start of Term 1 2015/16. We have now reconstituted to a complement of 14 governors: 8 Foundation Governors, 2 Staff Governors (including the Headteacher), 2 Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority appointed Governor and a new category of 1 Co-Opted Governor. Co-Opted Governors are appointed by the governing body. They are people who in the opinion of the governing body have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the School. We told you about the Foundation Governors last time so here's a little bit about each of the other members of our governing body:

### Lucille Charles (Headteacher)

I was born in Jamaica and moved to the UK when I was 11 years old. At that age I had already been inspired by one of my teachers and knew that one day I wanted to become a teacher myself. I started my teaching career in Yorkshire over 30 years ago and worked in Leicester before moving to Bristol over 20 years ago. During my time as a teacher I have taught in middle schools, infant, junior and primary schools whilst raising a family of my own. I joined St Bonaventure's over 12 years ago, this being my second headship. I have always placed learning, achievement and pupils' wellbeing at the heart of my leadership and feel incredibly lucky to be part of a school where the ethos follows that of my own. My personal goal is to ensure that every child who joins St Bonaventure's has a positive experience and by the time they leave us at 11 they have received a "*broad and balanced curriculum*", are confident and inspired to achieve more. I feel very proud to be part of a community who have all worked so hard to create our new school and give our children more opportunities and feel excited as we embark on the final stages of development of our school grounds.

### Steph Woolley (Staff Governor)

I am a Year 2 teacher and also a member of SLT with responsibility for implementing and overseeing the new curriculum this year. After teaching in London for 12 years, including 5 years as a Deputy Head, I moved to Bristol with my husband and two young children. Our eldest started at St Bon's in 1999 and two children later my youngest finished in 2013. I gradually became more involved in teaching again, starting with PPA and supply cover and then more recently covering maternity leaves in Year 2. The joy of teaching at St. Bon's for me is working as part of a community that support each other to make a real difference to the children we teach, not only in celebrating academic progress but through sharing our spiritual journey and developing the potential of every individual. Work/life balance is an ongoing challenge for me but in my spare time I love walking the dog, holidays in France and a glass of rosé in the sunshine.

### Alison Duckett (Parent Governor)

I have been part of the school for over three years and have been heavily involved in the PTFA and with reading support. I'm formerly a chemical engineer from north of the border and have worked in the oil and the whisky industry. My son is currently in Year 3 and although I am officially a 'stay at home' mum I don't stay at home very often! If you don't find me in school or running round the Downs, you're bound to find me in a local coffee shop!

### Marie Harkin (Parent Governor)

I have two daughters currently at St. Bons, in years 1 and 3. I have been a parent governor since March 2013. I currently run my own business making bespoke silver keepsake jewellery as well as being a full time mum. However, before becoming a parent, I worked for 12 years as a design technology teacher in inner London. As I have always been interested in the inner workings of a school becoming a parent governor was a natural step for me. Being a mum and a former teacher gives me a well-rounded perspective on governing issues. I am part of the MECP team and as such have been involved in for example school admissions and staff interviews. I am also the Gifted and Talented pupils link Governor. I am happy to be found and talked to in the playground; I drop off and pick up daily.



## Spotlight on our Governors

### Jonathan Rogers (LA Appointed Governor)

I've served on the Governing Body for the last 8 years initially as a parent governor, and latterly as the LA appointed governor. I am in my second 2-year stint as vice-chair of the GB, and am the chair of the Finance, Premises Health and Safety committee. My son, now 15 and studying at St Bede's, was in year 5 when we opened phase one. I've worked with Tony Nelson on the rebuild since day one; and see the completion as reward for those many hours spent making the case for support for St Bonaventure's.



### Sarah Paul (Co-Opted Governor)

I initially joined the governing body as a parent governor in April 2013 but was voted as the new co-opted governor in February 2015. I currently have two daughters at the school, one in Year three and one in Year two. Our third daughter will start school next September. Since taking on the role I have become a member of the MECP committee and I am the Children in Care governor too. I was keen to become a governor to give support and advice to the wonderful staffing team and to get involved in the decision making processes. I also want to do all I can to help with the school's development. The role has been very satisfying, all be it quite time consuming at times. You really do get out of the role as much as you put in although to do the job well you do need to be committed. I am currently not working but used to be a Solicitor. Being a governor requires good communication skills, being bold enough to ask questions, the attendance of regular meetings, being prepared to conduct school visits and spending time in between each meeting preparing and reviewing documents, to name but a few. If you would like to find out more or ask questions please do look for me in the school playground.



We also have 2 Associate Members who are assigned to specific committees. Whilst they cannot vote on decisions they provide a useful input into the work of the governing body with their specific skills in finance and health & safety:



### Giovanni Maniglia (Associate Member)

I'm an Associate Member of the FPH&S Committee and a link Associate Member to the Pupil Voice and School Council all since March 2014. I'm a Private Banking and Advice Manager at Lloyds Bank and have been for the past 27 years, where I look after client's savings, investment portfolios and advise them on all financial planning aspects. I love helping people, making sure that they are financially secure and safe and I hope to apply and utilise my skills in the finance and banking field at St Bon's. Outside of work I am a family man and have always been closely connected to St Bon's as my youngest daughter is currently in year 3 as well as my twin daughters who attended the school and are now currently in year 7 at St Bede's. My main reason for putting myself forward for a position on the Governing Body at St Bon's was purely due to my interest in the education system and school life. I hope to help with the development of the school and also the pupils by applying some of my professional experience and social skills. Finally, I simply wanted to give something back to the school, given that I also attended St Bon's many years ago.



### Gavin Sanders (Associate Member)

I've been an Associate Governor for nearly 3 years working on the FPHS committee. I have two sons at St. Bon's, so when I was asked to get involved with the governing body I was happy to help out. My particular brief is Health & Safety which mostly involves termly H&S inspections to make sure that the school remains a safe and stress free place for all pupils, staff and visitors. I'm enjoying my role – it is fascinating to see quite what is involved in running a school and beyond my own portfolio there has been plenty of opportunity to give input into other areas of interest. It's also great to be part of the team involved in the continued success of St. Bon's as the rebuilding of the school is completed.



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## School Grounds Update

The completion of the School has always, in the minds of the governing body, included providing an outdoors environment to enthuse and stimulate our pupils. The buildings had to take precedence but we are now underway with completing the School grounds. You will already be aware of some changes including the new path (taking as much foot traffic off Friary Road as possible to make it safer for our pupils) and the two tunnels, which together with the climbing wall and adventure playground (which will both we hope be re-instated) will provide an exciting opportunity for pupils to burn off some energy. We intend to make a planning application for an all-weather pitch and we also hope to create a St Francis garden to support our pupils spiritually. We must pay specific thanks to the PTFA who have offered to make a very generous contribution towards the works and to all those who have contributed to the "200 Club". We will very shortly be re-launching this fund raising initiative with the completion of the grounds in mind. Whilst these plans are being finalised, we intend to open the current field to our pupils as soon as possible after the Easter holidays once some repairs have been carried out to make it safe. Thank you all for your support and patience. We are on the home stretch now!



## And finally ...

- Thank you for the positive feedback on our first newsletter. Please do feel free to let us have your ideas for areas you'd like us to cover in the future by contacting our Clerk (contact details above).
- Well done to all our School houses for the terrific Easter celebrations. You all worked so hard to produce such beautiful pieces of artwork and we enjoyed seeing all the fantastic performances!
- We must also pay special thanks to all the pupils that took part in the fantastic Wizard of Oz performances and all the parents that devoted so much of their precious time. You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves. Thank you must be paid to Kate McGrath – we're not sure where you find all that energy and enthusiasm but we are incredibly lucky to have you!
- We are pleased to confirm that the governing body is currently at full complement. However, the very nature of governing bodies is that people come and go so do let our Clerk know if you are interested in becoming involved in the future as a governor or as an Associate Member.