

# GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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

## Welcome to our Newsletter

The Governors of St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School warmly welcome you to our very first Governor Newsletter!

Our plan is to issue our newsletter 3 times a year at the end of Terms 2, 4, and 6.

We hope that the newsletter will help to keep you in touch with the work of the Governing Body and give some insight into the work that goes on behind the scenes to make our School the best it possibly can be.

We are very lucky at St Bon's to be part of a wonderful community. We would like to welcome our new members of staff and thank all our staff for their continued enthusiasm and hard work. We would also like to thank parents and carers for their support – it makes such a difference to our pupils.

We wish you and your families a peaceful and blessed Christmas!

***The Governing Body of St Bon's***

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## What do we do?

School Governors have **3 key responsibilities:**

- setting the strategic direction of the School;
- holding the headteacher to account; and
- overseeing the financial performance of the School.

We are here to support the School as a critical friend. We meet once a term and each governor also sits on at least one of our 3 committees: Standards, Finance Premises Health & Safety (FPH&S) and Management Equality & Child Protection (MECP). The committees also meet once a term. In later newsletters, we will focus on each of these committees and the work that they do.

If you are interested in getting involved with our governing body, please do get in touch with our Clerk, Caroline Evans – details at the end of the newsletter.

*"When educating the minds of our youth we must not forget to educate their hearts"*



## Spotlight on our Governors

Our governing body currently comprises of 16 governors: 9 Foundation Governors, 3 Staff Governors (including our Headteacher), 3 Parent Governors and 1 Local Authority appointed Governor. This issue we would like to introduce you to our **Foundation Governors** who are appointed by the Bishop. In addition, to supporting the School in its development, they are also responsible for promoting the importance of the Catholic ethos. We asked them to give a pen portrait about themselves and here is what they had to say:

### **Eddie Romero (Foundation Governor and our Chair of Governors)**

I have been a Foundation Governor at St Bon's since 2011 and became Chair of Governors in September 2012. I was also a Foundation Governor and Chair of the Finance Committee at School of Christ the King for 12 years. I have been a parishioner of St Bon's since 1988 and work as an Aerospace Engineer at Rolls-Royce. My two children have both been pupils at St Bon's, with one of them already at St Bede's and my wife Liz is a primary school teacher having previously been in the legal profession. I share the Church's teaching regarding education as an inalienable right of all people of whatever race, age and condition. True education has to be conducive to true unity, justice and peace in the world. I am very proud to be part of such a hard working dedicated group of volunteers working to achieve the best possible outcomes for our pupils so that they benefit to the utmost from their educational and formative experience at St Bon's.



### **Niki Hawke (Foundation Governor)**

I joined the St Bon's governors back in September 2012 after reading in our church newsletter that there was a vacancy for a foundation governor who could represent the Sacred Heart parish. I have a background in primary teaching in both Nottingham and Bristol and wanted to maintain an education link whilst taking some time out of my career to look after our children. I now have two children at St Bon's in Reception and Year One and our family has grown with the arrival of a baby at the end of September. I was keen to take on the role of English link governor given my leadership role in that area in my previous job and I enjoy carrying out visits to the school and working with the English co-ordinator. In my spare time, I enjoy walking our dog, making cards and before the little one arrived, I was a keen netball player for the St Bon's Mums team and I enjoyed helping run the Little Hearts Playgroup.



### **Chris Jackson (Foundation Governor)**

I have been involved with the St Bon's Governing Body for over a year and have been a Foundation Governor for a few months now. I am currently in the MECP Committee and I am the link governor for Child Protection and Sport. I am married with two beautiful daughters; the eldest Amalie has just started at St Bon's. I am a PE teacher and Head of Year 10 at Broadoak Secondary School, Weston-Super-Mare. A transferable skill I hope to bring to the governor role is one of supporting young children and their families. You will usually find us at St Bon's children's liturgy service on Sunday mornings, please feel free to come over and say hello!



### **Kevin Molloy (Foundation Governor)**

I became a Foundation Governor in September this year but I have been a St Bon's parishioner since 1999. During attendance at Mass and other church functions, I saw first-hand the energy and commitment that the children and staff bring to everything that they do and this encouraged me to become a governor. I hope to bring the skills – listening, analysing, problem solving and project management – that I developed in my working life to my governor role. I am really enjoying my work as a governor and have taken on the role of being the link with the School SENCO & Inclusion Leader, Liz Kurzik. Outside of being a governor, I revel in the luxury of being retired and so able to indulge myself in walking, holidays and volunteering with the Woodland Trust.

## Spotlight on our Governors

### Ciara Mullan (Foundation Governor)

I have recently started in my role as a Foundation Governor. I have three children, two who are now at St Bede's leaving one who still attends St Bon's. I currently work as a Programme Manager for an IT outsourcing company and whilst I am still learning about the role of a governor, I hope I shall be able to use my experience in finance, governance and staffing matters to support the school. I volunteered for this role as I wanted to contribute to my community and it has been very interesting to discover the wide range of topics and issues that need to be covered by the governing body.



### Tony Nelson (Foundation Governor)

I have been a Foundation Governor since about 2000. I was asked to join the governing body after standing down from being the chair of the PTFA. During my time on the governing body I have spent 2 terms totalling 5 years as chair of governors, standing down from that role about two years ago to concentrate on leading the project to finish building the school. Soon after joining the governors we had to make some major decisions about the future of the school and the buildings. I took the lead in this project and in September 2014 following 12 years of planning and building was very proud to see the finished school finally open. I have been married to my wife Karen for 28 years and our two children both attended St Bon's School and we are still parishioners of St Bon's Parish. Outside of School, I operate my own logistics company. I have been a lifelong Manchester United fan and used to play hooker for a local rugby team. I enjoy holidays with my family with Italy and Florida being our favourite locations. During the past 14 years as a governor I hope I have made a difference and a positive contribution to the life of all those connected with the School. I see a bright new future for the School and this is most obvious when you look at and talk to the children and staff who are so proud of their new School.



### Jacob Preisner (Foundation Governor)

I have been a Foundation Governor since July 2011 when my Parish Priest at the Sacred Heart encouraged me to fill a vacancy on the Governing Body. After an initial period of struggling to decipher all the jargon used in education today, I now really appreciate just how much goes on behind the scenes to make St Bon's a great school for our children. I am married to Tiba and we have four wonderful boys: Shems, Yanis, Adam and Elias; Shems started in Year 1 in 2007 and Elias will finish Year 6 in 2021, meaning that added together our boys will have benefitted from 27 years of St Bon's! For me, being a governor represents an opportunity to give something back to St Bon's. As a solicitor my legal skills come in quite handy as chair of the MECP Committee; a committee which covers areas such as staffing, equality and child protection. In my spare time (a relative concept with four children), I love (in no particular order) red wine, cooking, cinema, theatre and getting out and about with my family to the beach or countryside.



### Rev Michael Robertson (Foundation Governor)

I have been Parish Priest and School Chaplain since 2005. During that time I have served as a Foundation Governor. While a number of other governors are also active parishioners, it is my responsibility to be the link between the school and St Bonaventure's Parish. In that role, I am able to help the governing body ensure that Catholic faith and practice are at the heart of the School's life. Within the School community, I celebrate Mass and other services for the children and am available to advise teachers about the life and teaching of the Catholic Church. The highlight of every year for me is in June when children from the School make their First Holy Communion.



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## School Improvement Plan

The school's vision statement is: ***Striving to the best we can, guided by the light of Christ*** and the School does continually strive to improve.

This year our focus is on 3 key areas:

**Priority 1: Attainment:** To narrow the achievement gap for identified groups in Mathematics and English.

**Priority 2: Teaching and Learning:** Revise the St Bon's Curriculum so that it is relevant to our pupils and their needs.

**Priority 3: Leadership and Management:** To build leadership capacity within the School by continuing to work according to a distributed model of leadership and professional learning community.

As governors we monitor the actions and progress in each priority through our committees and regular visits to the School. We report back to the full governing body the key successes and challenges so we can work with the School to give the best support possible where it is needed.

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## And finally ...

- The School website will soon be updated and should hopefully be easier for staff to upload information. Please keep an eye out in the School newsletter for details as to when it is online.
- We hope you are as delighted as we are with the new school buildings. You'll see that there have been changes to the School field and there are more to come. We hope to update you in the next newsletter.
- Thank you to all the staff and pupils for the wonderful Nativity performances and concert – they were amazing!
- Don't forget the Nativity Service at St Bon's Church on Christmas Eve at 4pm – it is a beautiful way to celebrate this very special time of year.
- The eagle eyed of you will note that we currently have a vacancy in our Foundation Governors. We are in the process of reconstituting the governing body but if you are interested in joining in the future, please contact our Clerk.
- How did we do? Please find to the left our contact details to let us have your thoughts on areas you'd like us to cover.