

# GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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

## Welcome to our Summer Newsletter!

There is a definite farewell theme to this newsletter – not only is the school saying goodbye to Mrs Charles, but we are also saying goodbye to some familiar faces on the governing body as well. However, all is not doom and gloom – there are new Foundation Governors to welcome to the board, and the governors are very much looking forward to working with Mrs Ballantine and Mrs Woolley in their new roles as head and deputy – at our latest meeting we heard the exiting plans for the new academic year and we cannot wait to see these in action!

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### All change

The end of another busy school year draws to a close and in so doing we have to say goodbye to good friends and stalwarts of the Governing Body.

Jake Preisner announced earlier in the year his intention to step down as a Foundation Governor and chair of the Governing Body. He has served as a Foundation Governor for 8 years, 3 of which as Chair. We will all miss phlegmatic approach to time management!

In many ways he was perfectly adapt to this role, bring a calmness to our decision making and an ability to adroitly sum up our often-wide-ranging discussion. Throughout his time on the GB he was a valuable colleague and will be missed by us all. We hope he enjoys his future challenges and watches with interest as we grapple with ours.

Marie Harkin also steps down from her position as an associate governor, although she has previously served as a Parent Governor. Marie has for many years supported the school in its recruitment processes and handling our admissions work, which all parents will recall is a particularly challenging time as they seek to obtain a place in a preferred school. I know from personal experience how much these two roles meant to Marie and I'm grateful for her personal contribution here.

Last, but by no means least, Maria Lucio also steps down from an associate governor role. Although only an associate member for a couple of years, Maria made outstanding contributions to our recruitment discussions, which were far more focused thanks to her guiding hand.

As you would appreciate the Governorship of the school has to constantly evolve, so we welcome two new members to our Board - Kate Lavington and Geraldine Summers have both joined the governing body as Foundation Governors. I would like to extend a warm welcome to them both and look forward to working with them over the next months and possibly years!

**Jonathan Rogers**

**Vice Chair of Governors**

*"Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life."  
Pope Francis*



## A tribute to Mrs Charles

For everyone on the governing body, Mrs Charles has been an ever-present link between the school and the governors – she has attended every governing body meeting and committee meeting, and always with a smile on her face (even at 8 o'clock in the morning!). There was a collective sigh when she announced her intention to retire at the end of this academic year, and we are all going to miss her enormously. Below are some individual tributes from members of the governing body.

Mrs Charles has been a shining light and an inspirational leader. As a new member of the governing board she has been welcoming and very patient and as a new parent to the school she has provided the perfect experience for my son to start his educational journey. Thank you for everything and enjoy the next phase in your journey! *Shailen Joshi*

Lucille it has been an absolute pleasure to get to know you over the years. My first impression of you was when I stepped through the doors of the old building into the reception area on a school tour for Emily in 2011. You greeted us with a warm smile and welcomed us into your school which felt immediately like a safe and caring place to be. As a Governor I am not sure how many interviews we have done together, but it has been my pleasure to work with you and your staff to find and appoint so many amazing people who work in all areas of St Bon's. I will certainly miss you saying hello at the school gate as I take Annie to school for my last year of the school run next year. Enjoy your retirement and thank you for everything you have done for the school. I hope our paths will cross again many times in the future. *Marie Harkin*

Lucille has a real warmth about her. She always has a smile for the children and is very welcoming on the school gates in the morning. When the children have finished their class assemblies, Lucille is always so full of praise and pride for the children. St Bonaventure's School will really miss Lucille. *Niki Hawke*

It has been a pleasure to sit on the governing body during Lucille's last couple of years at St Bon's. Her warmth and love for the children shines through and she always puts them at the centre of everything she does. Lucille considers thoughtfully how she can fulfil the school motto of 'striving to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ' and over the years has created a truly special place. I hope she enjoys a very well-earned retirement! *Jenny Kittow*

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It has been a real pleasure to have known you Lucille over a very long time, not only as the head when my 3 daughters attended St Bon's but also when both my nephew and niece attended St Bon's before that. I will certainly miss our little chats about our families. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement and thank you for everything you have done for the school and my families. Do keep in touch. *Giovanni Maniglia*

Lucille, you will be missed. You live and breathe the morals of our school. You are always so generous with your time. Your enthusiasm from listening and responding to a long story from a little 5 year old to your updates in meetings on school performance; doing the best for our children is always your priority. You are always calm, always professional and always strive to do the best you can for everyone. Our school's vision for the whole child led by you has given all our children the best start possible in life. I will miss your fun and lovely smile. Have a long and happy retirement. *Ali Duckett*

It's been my privilege to have known Lucille, through having two boys who are still at St Bon's, and more recently as a parent governor. I've always been in admiration of her positive warm approach, and focus on what's best for the school and its children. She has been an inspiration to me and my family, and I know she will be greatly missed by all at St Bonaventure's School. *Jonathan Kidd*

How appropriate that a school which strives to encourage its pupils to let their light shine has had a headteacher for the past 19 years whose name, Lucille, means light! We could not have wished for a better beacon to guide our school community, always with a warm smile and good humour, and it is a testament to you that the school will continue to feel the benefit of all your hard work long after you have retired. *Jake Preisner*

My first impression of Mrs Charles was very memorable as she welcomed me and my daughter very warmly to show us the school (only 18 months ago). She was very approachable, knowledgeable and full of enthusiasm. For me, becoming a governor and seeing Mrs Charles's amazing hard work only confirmed that we made a great decision choosing St. Bonaventure's. *Ewa Bubnicka-Gyde*



*"Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning"*

*Proverbs 9:9*