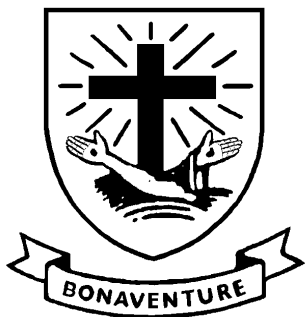


GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

Spring is very firmly here (although the warm weather we enjoyed over Easter appears to have deserted us for the time being) and the period after Easter at school is particularly busy for the year 6 and year 2 pupils with SATS. The teachers spend a huge amount of time preparing the children for these tests, and the children work incredibly hard to achieve their best – the governors are very proud of the efforts that they all put in, and wish them the very best of luck.

Recruitment

One of the most important jobs that a governing body can have is not one, thankfully, that comes up very often, and that is recruitment of a headteacher. The headteacher is not only the public face of the school, but their vision and plans can shape the school for many years to come. We, at St Bon's, have been incredibly lucky that Mrs Charles has been at the helm for almost two decades – most of the parents and teachers will not have known another head at the school. Her hard work and dedication has made St Bon's what it is, so when it came to finding a replacement for her, the governing body knew that it had its work cut out for it to find someone who could fill such impressive shoes.

The recruitment process itself is rigorous – the governors have to be absolutely sure that they are choosing the right person to lead the school forwards, and to that end have to stretch the applicants to be happy that they can demonstrate all the attributes that the governors are looking for in a successful head. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the governing body for all the time and effort they spent on the recruitment process. There were a large number of meetings, a host of paperwork to consider, and many of the governors and associate members took the day off work on the interview day itself to observe tasks and provide their input into the process. All our governors are volunteers, who already give a great deal of time to the school, and they really proved their dedication to St Bon's by engaging in this process wholeheartedly from the outset.

I know I speak on behalf of all the governors when I say how delighted we all are that Mrs Ballentine will be taking over as headteacher from September – she is an asset to the school and we are very much looking forward to working with her over the months and years ahead.

Jacob Preisner

Chair of Governors

*“Mary is the mother, and a mother worries above all about the health of her children, she knows how to care for them always with great and tender love. Our Lady guards our health. What does this mean: Our Lady guards our health? I think above all of three things: she helps us grow, to confront life, to be free”
Pope Francis*



Health and Safety

I wanted to provide you with an update of my role as the Health & Safety Governor and the importance that the Governing Board and I all have a duty and responsibility to ensure the Health, Safety & Wellbeing at St Bon's. This means we must take “reasonable steps” to ensure pupils; staff and visitors are not exposed to risks to their health and safety, and make sure the school is meeting its legal responsibilities.

During the school year, Carol Simpson, the Schools H&S Coordinator, and I meet 3 times and where we carry out a Health & Safety inspection of the whole school and its grounds. We do this to ensure we report and monitor any Health & Safety risks so this can be followed up and resolved. All of these inspections have always been positive, with no major health and safety issues to report. But this is down to the hard work and high standards that all staff at St Bon's consistently achieves.

In line with the School Health, Safety & Wellbeing Policy, we have also created a further H&S Subcommittee where we also meet 3 times a school year. This committee comprises of various staff from each department, the care takers, the Head and Deputy Head. In these meetings we discuss health & Safety & wellbeing issues or incidents that may have occurred and discuss ways to resolve these , plus sharing best practices in ways that we can prevent any potential risks to pupils and staff.

Finally, I have been very impressed in what has been done at St Bon's by the positive evidence and commitment that the school has shown, in really ensuring it maintains the high standard of Health, Safety & Wellbeing of all the pupils, staff and visitors at our wonderful St Bon's School.

Giovanni Maniglia

Health & Safety Governor

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And finally.....

While on the subject of Health and Safety, I wanted to share again with you all Mrs Charles's notes that were posted in the March editions of the Schools Newsletters regarding some serious incidents that had occurred in the school car park/friary Road and church Car Park:

Friary Road

"I am sorry to have to report that one of our parents experienced a shocking lack of care and consideration from someone who was dropping a child off in the morning just outside the staff car park earlier this week. A car drove up Friary Lane and mounted the pavement whilst executing a three point turn. The driver then accelerated dangerously causing one of our parents to have to swiftly get out of the way. Egerton Road and Friary Lane should not be used by cars dropping children off – they are extremely restricted and full of pedestrians and cyclists. The incident was serious enough that I have informed our local police officer. This behaviour is extremely upsetting – the driver of the car was putting people's lives at risk with no consideration shown for any of the children or parents using the school entrance."

Church Car park

"On a less positive note, I have had a lot of complaints from parents this week about the selfish use of a small number of parents using the drop off zone in the Church car park to park their cars. The yellow hatchings are NOT to be used for parking – if there is no other space available, please park on the street near the tennis courts where there is often space. Leaving home earlier will also help avoid having to disrupt other people's mornings. Thank you."

The school and the Governors regard these incidents as very serious, but thankfully there have been no casualties! With this in mind we want to send you all a reminder that when you are dropping off or picking up your children from school you all using the designated foot paths and not the staff car park or Friary Road/ Egerton Road (unless cycling or on a scooter) and finally please do not park in the yellow hatchings or drop off zones in the church car park.

Adhering and supporting these points will definitely ensure we avoid any serious accidents happening to your children and yourselves and preventing us to have to spend precious school funds on extra warning signs around the school grounds. Thank you.



"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

1Peter 1:3