



Governors Newsletter Summer Term 2018

Our Christian value for life focus is Truthfulness

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the new North Cerney Primary Academy Governors newsletter. We hope that this new channel of communication will help parents to better understand the role of the governing body, the strategic direction of the school and the different initiatives we work on together with Mrs Pascoe and colleagues to ensure the highest quality of education for our students. We also welcome feedback from parents regarding topics for future newsletters - please do get in touch with suggestions Clerk@northcerney.gloucs.sch.uk

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR – REV DAVID MINNS

We are at a tremendously exciting time in the history of the school; having in recent years become an academy within The Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust (DGAT) - which has brought many benefits in terms of support and resources - we have now moved to a new leadership model with Mrs Pascoe joining as Executive Head (shared with Bibury C of E Primary School) at the start of this academic year. This represents a great opportunity to build on the excellent foundations established under previous Head Mrs Burr and the staff. With fresh perspective come fresh ideas and we are pursuing a plan to put in place improvements in specific areas, more on which can be found under standards committee.

GOVERNING BODY – WHAT, WHO AND WHY?

The role of the governing body is to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategy
- Hold executive leaders (i.e. Mrs Pascoe) to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Oversee the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

The governing body comprises 10 members, either elected, co-opted or *ex officio* (i.e. default members such as the Head) each of whom fulfils a different role and may concentrate on a particular element of school governance. For instance, Gareth James leads our Standards Sub-Committee, the activities of which are described overleaf. The aim is to bring together a diverse group of individuals with different but complimentary skills and experience, who can work as a team to address the varied challenges faced by a school. Details of who is responsible for what can be found on the school website, but we will be profiling our governors in these newsletters to delve into what each brings to the role.

CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS

The School is an Academy Trust within Diocese of Gloucester Academy Trust. Two Governors are nominated by the Parochial Parish Council; the Rector and a member from the Community, currently Rev. David Minns and I.

An Ethos Committee has been formed to ensure a distinct Christian character in the School. The vision embraces spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of the pupils. The four key elements are wisdom, hope, community and dignity. The vision, in line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, is for the common good of the whole community and invites collaboration to serve this flourishing School. As Governors we engage with the School Community, leading Worship discussing the School Value for each term and forge links between the Church, Community and the School.

John Thomson

GOVERNOR PROFILE: GARETH JAMES

I have lived in North Cerney for three and a half years. I work at Cirencester College as a Geology lecturer and during my teaching career I have worked in primary education all the way to University level. I have been a co-opted governor for nearly three years and currently I am the Chair of the Standards Committee. I joined the Governors as I knew that my future child (she made her appearance this year and is now 6 months old!) would eventually attend the school and so wanted to use my experience to help the school for when she enrolls. With my teaching experience and enjoyment of number crunching, I have been working with Mrs Pascoe and the Standards Committee to ensure that when Ofsted visits the school the Governors have asked all the correct questions and done all they can to help North Cerney School be ready for the inspection.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards committee's role is to act as a critical but supportive friend to the school by asking questions and seeking out information to show that changes have been made where necessary. When Ofsted visit, they perform a similar role in that they look through the school's data and question anything they find that does not fit with what they expect to see in terms of, for example, results and attendance.

Since Mrs Pascoe took over the Headship this year there has been a very clear and well laid out plan to ensure that teaching and learning is at the highest level. To support Mrs Pascoe the Standards Committee has been meeting to discuss data, speaking to subject leaders and looking at pupils' work to find evidence of improvements. So far the Governors are very pleased with the effectiveness of the improvement plan and we are seeing lot of evidence that it is having a big impact on the school's standards.

As you are hopefully aware, the school has made a big push this year on improving attendance, and it is vital that we continue the good work on this as we are still below the national average. Attendance is an area that Ofsted will use to make its judgment on the school as part of their inspection. The Governors feel that the school has taken some steps that should ensure that attendance improves and becomes embedded in the pupils' approach to learning. However, we also rely on parents understanding the consequences of poor attendance and unauthorised absence, and working with the school to help improve our record.

Finally, we want to say well done to all the Year 6 pupils who have taken their exams this year; we are very proud of all the hard work that they have put into them.

Gareth James