

Dear Parents / Carers

We issue a Governor Bulletin twice a year to share with parents some of the work that our governors undertake at Welland Park Academy.

Since December 2016 when we last wrote to you, governors have been involved in strategic development of our facilities. Over the course of the year we developed new facilities to support GCSEs in PE and the Performing Arts. The governing body have also assisted in the development of our plans for a 5 classroom Modern Foreign Languages block which was completed in February 2017.



Each governor visits the school each year to challenge and support the work to which they are linked on our School Development Plan (SDP).

We now also include interviews/meetings with students as part of each visit. Students are also given the opportunity to interview our governors so that they are aware of their roles within our school.

Ian Merriman, one of our Governors, met with our Y9/10 rugby team to discuss their success in a number of rugby tournaments. They narrowly missed out on a place in the final of the NatWest Vase (semi-final score 10-8) but then went on to win the County Cup only 3 days later for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive time. We would like to thank Mr Merriman for his ardent support of the sporting activities of our students.



Each bulletin we invite 2 students to interview one of our governors and vice versa. This time 2 Year 10 students interviewed Caroline Baker.

**GOVERNOR/STUDENT MEETING  
THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

Governor: Caroline Baker (CBA)

Students from Year 10: Toby Cooper (TCO) and Jemma Swales (JSW)

**JSW – What does being a governor involve?**

CBA – I have had the privilege of being a governor at WPA since 2012. The role involves lots of different aspects. There are 16 governors altogether and as well as meeting as a full governing body we are also broken down into sub-committees: Teaching and Learning of Operations. We can decide which sub-committee we would like to be involved with. We only get involved with the strategic direction of the school and not the day to day running of it. We are there to give independent advice and assistance. We also challenge the Principal and the Senior Leadership team to ensure good outcomes for students.

**CBA – How are you finding Year 10?**

TCO – It is a bit hard to keep up sometimes but it is ok. We do get lots of support.

**CBA – Why did you stay at Welland Park Academy rather than moving on?**

TCO – It is an outstanding school – twice and the GCSE option choices were very good.

**CBA – At the last governors meeting we had a presentation from the Careers Officer at Welland Park Academy. Have you had any dealings with her and did you find them helpful?**

TCO – All of the Year 10 students have had a meeting with her to discuss colleges, universities, career options. She has been very good.

JSW – She has shown me how many different post-16 options there are which is really helpful.

**CBA – Do you think you are treated differently now you are in Year 10?**

TCO – We are treated more like adults which is really good. We have different coloured ties and a separate area where we can go for lunch.

JSW – In Years 7 to 9 things were pretty much handed to us but now we have to be more independent and things are more challenging.

**CBA – Are you helped?**

JSW – Yes. We get a lot of support from the staff.

**JSW – Do you enjoy being a governor?**

CBA – Yes I do. I work full time so sometimes it is a bit of a challenge to juggle things. I have loved being involved the planning for the age range change.

**JSW – Why did you want to become a governor?**

CBA – I liked the school and I thought I would get a deeper understanding of the school. I work for Barnardo's so supporting young people is something I am very passionate about.

**CBA – Do students feel that bullying issues are dealt with well?**

JSW – Yes. I had some bullying problems when I first started but the Pastoral department dealt with it really quickly and got things sorted.

**CBA – Has the amount of homework you receive increased since you have been in Year 10?**

TCO – Yes it has but we do get plenty of support from the staff.

JSW – I am doing Art and Graphics and we get lots of homework.

**CBA – How did the Year 10 exams go?**

TCO – It was a bit confusing on the first day but then it was all ok. You have to get organised and bring the right equipment.

**CBA – How have you and your friends felt about the intervention program that has been put in place?**

JSW – It has been really helpful. Knowing that we have the support of the teachers and they are willing to give up their time to make sure we do well is great.

**CBA – Are you both taking part in the Work Experience program in the Summer?**

JSW – Yes I am going to Mini Mischiefs.

TCO – Yes I am going to Mrs Bees Kitchen.

**TCO – If you could change anything in the school what would it be?**

CBA – It is a really good school. I have seen many changes over the last year so I really do think everything has been done. I have complete faith in the Senior Leadership Team to continue to ensure you all have the very best they can give you. I am very happy with the school.

Governors are an integral part of Welland Park Academy. Once again this year we have benefited from strategic challenge and support of our governing body. Throughout the year governors have attended training in the following areas:

Premises and Procurement  
Use of School Data  
Financial Reporting

This is in addition to individual training undertaken by the Governor Development Service.

Governors attend our meetings and each governor undertakes 1 or 2 school visits to monitor aspects of our School Development Plan.

If you are interested in joining our governing body please contact the PA to the Principal Mrs Burgess to arrange a visit [burgessn@wellandparkacademy.com](mailto:burgessn@wellandparkacademy.com)

We wish all of our students, parents, governors and staff a good summer break.

Dave Hedley  
Chair of Governors