



GOVERNOR BULLETIN

ISSUE 12
APRIL 2022

Governors	Roles	Type	Terms of Office
Peter Parkin-Child	Chair History link	Co-opted	24/09/2019 - 23/09/2023
Cilla Hollman	Vice Chair EYFS, Geography, Music, Eco link	Co-opted	09/07/2019 – 08/07/2023
Esther Bland	Headteacher	Staff	01/09/2018 -
Jessica McFarlane	Safeguarding, Anti - bullying & PREVENT link	Co-opted	25/09/2018 – 24/09/2022
Rev. David Mundy	RE, Pastoral link	Ex-officio foundation	01/10/2018 -
Jonathan Lingham	Numeracy link	Parent	15/11/2018 – 14/11/2022
Deborah Walker	Literacy (writing) link	Foundation	01/05/2019 - 30/04/2023
Victoria Freiss	ICT/e-safety link	Parent	11/11/2019 – 10/11/2023
Tom Plant	Literacy (reading) link	Parent	25/05/2021 – 24/05/2025
Kellie Wilson	Deputy Headteacher	Co-opted	13/07/2021 – 12/07/2025
Olivia Cousen	Teacher	Staff	02/09/2021 – 01/09/2025
Lauren Kallides		Parent	03/03/2022 – 02/03/2026
Roger Wilkinson	Health & Safety link	Local Authority	29/03/2022 – 28/03/2026

The aim of this Governor Bulletin is to give you some insight into what our role as a governor is within the school, as well as updating you on the issues we get involved with. But, most importantly, I want these bulletins to reinforce that we, as a Governing Body, are here to work with all those who have a vested interest in the success of Dukes – and so please feel free to stop and chat to us when you see us around and about.

So, we're two thirds of the way through the academic year and whilst we are not quite as free from the pandemic as maybe we had all hoped for, it has been great to see and hear about the plans being made to bring school activities back to some kind of normal. I am very much looking forward to the Jubilee celebrations which will see children, parents/carers and staff coming together in our first communal event in what feels like forever!

So, what do Governors do?

The Governing Body is made up of a mixture of volunteers - members of the community, church and local authority, parents, and staff. We meet as a Full Governing Body (FGB) six times a year and these meetings usually take place after key school data becomes available. Our aim is to work closely with the Headteacher to raise standards and make sure the school provides a good quality education. We do not manage the day to day running of the school - we help shape its focus and direction. We ensure accountability to parents, staff, and others for the school's overall performance, support the Head and staff, as well as offer constructive challenge.

Governor Changes

We are sad to say goodbye to two members of our governing body - Michelle **Massey** (one of our parent governors) and **Heather Kindleysides** (our governance professional). **Michelle** stepped down when her term of office came to an end, and we thank her for her hard work over the last four years. Michelle played an active role in the governing body as our Pupil Premium and SEND link governor, and we will miss her valuable input. **Heather** has been our governance professional for several years and has decided that it is time for her to retire from the clerking business. She has expertly helped the governing body navigate its way through numerous meetings and procedures, and her knowledge will be greatly missed. We wish you a very happy retirement.

However, it's not all sad news as I am pleased to welcome **Lauren Kallides** to the Governing Body as our newest parent governor. Lauren brings a wealth of social work experience with her, alongside valuable insight into mental health provision for young people and their families. We are grateful to have her on board and look forward to putting this experience to good use at Dukes.

Ofsted

The school leadership team continue to work through the action plan that seeks to respond (and surpass) the key development points outlined by the Ofsted inspectors (reading/phonics, curriculum, and subject leadership). It was encouraging to hear, at our last governor meeting, that a progress visit from our School Improvement Adviser had gone very well; this reinforces the trust and confidence we (as a governing body) have in the staff and senior management team to ensure we are in a strong position for our next inspection.

Recent Meetings / Strategic Direction

It was great to hold our first face-face meeting last week as this enables us to have a better level of interaction and debate than that offered by virtual meetings (although they have definitely served a purpose over the last year or so). The main focus of the meeting was on our School Improvement Plan and the data that feeds into that in terms of pupil progress and attainment. Full details of the Plan can be found on the website under 'Statutory Information'.

We were told that a significant amount of reading monitoring has been taking place within the school and this is helping to both evaluate improvement as well as highlighting examples of great teaching. Phonics is still a large focus within our Early Years provision and Key Stage 1, and it was encouraging to hear that intervention sessions are assisting those children who may need that little bit of extra help.

In terms of closing gaps in learning, the school continues to build upon a series of baseline assessments in reading, writing and maths. As a governing body, we were provided with data that shows performance of the children in relation to these key areas, and this then helps both the school and the governing body to focus our attention where needed.

Buildings / Investments

I recently attended a meeting with Mrs Bland and Jenny Webster (LEA property owner) to discuss the progress of the modifications to the school hall that are needed to enable whole school assemblies to take place (along with improved lunchtime facilities). This was a very productive meeting and whilst we are not yet in a position to begin work on the modifications, we have made progress in terms of moving the funding forwards. The work that is needed relates to:

- The removal and relocation of the electricity panel from the hall to the library
- The removal of two/three non-structural columns to open up the hall floor plan.

I will continue to keep you posted of our progress in this matter.

PTA Jubilee Celebrations

As I mentioned, I am very much looking forward to the celebrations that will be taking place on Friday 27th May; and this will be yet another great event organised by the PTA. However, it was mentioned at our last meeting that they are in need of volunteers – not only for this event but also moving forwards in terms of appointment to key roles and support. I would encourage anyone who wants to get involved to contact the school office and they would be more than happy to put you in touch with the right people. It's a great opportunity to join a group that makes a real difference to the wellbeing and education of our children.

Happy Easter

That just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Easter! Enjoy the break and eat lots of chocolate!!

Stay safe and best regards

Peter Parkin-Child
Chair of Governors