



October 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year.

This is the first of our 'governor updates' the purpose of which is to keep you up to date with who we are and some of the things we're doing.

First of all who we are -

One of the things this letter provides is a platform on which to introduce ourselves whether we are new or not so new governors! Indeed, as this is being circulated you will be voting for a new parent governor. Do get involved, meet the candidates if you can and cast your vote.

A Foundation Governor who has joined us is Lynda Lockyer –

'I've just become a Foundation Governor and will also serve on the Resources Sub-Committee. I've lived in East Sheen for thirty years and attend All Saints, East Sheen. My working career was as a senior civil servant, dealing with policy and implementation in areas ranging from smoking, drugs, and alcohol misuse to Police Service finance, governance, and performance Management. Experience also includes heading the Human Resources Directorate at the Home Office. I'm a believer in lifelong learning and, after retirement, obtained two MAs and a PhD in Renaissance studies, with an emphasis on intellectual and cultural history and political thought. I can see already that Holy Trinity is an exceptional school and that I'm privileged to be joining a team which combines outstanding professionalism with friendliness. I look forward to learning more about it and to meeting staff, pupils and parents'.

Claude Scott another Foundation Governor has been with us for a few years –

'I have been a governor of Holy Trinity for six years and have served on the finance, curriculum and personnel committees. I am now a member of the resources committee in the reorganised committee structure. I am retired, but my entire career was in the computer industry, employed by a large multi-national company, living and working in Egypt, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Greece and Russia, as the Chief Executive Officer of the company's subsidiaries. Since retirement I have been a part-time student of history at the Open University and at King's College, London. I am also a governor of an independent school in Wandsworth and have lived in Richmond since 1989. I attend Holy Trinity church, where I am a member of the PCC. I have two daughters and a granddaughter.'

We shall look forward to welcoming our new Parent Governor in the near future.

Secondly, what have we been doing -

One of the things that was highlighted at the end of last term was the extra workload generated by the large number of sub-committees we had. Michele Marcus, vice chair, and I met with representatives of the local education board to talk about the best ways of addressing this. It was decided that we could reduce our committees to three.

So, this year we have made some changes. We now have three sub-committees:

Teaching and Learning,

Resources,

Pupil, Parents and Community.

The Teaching and Learning Committee will continue very much along the lines of the old Curriculum and Standards Committee in that it looks at ensuring that all children can access a full curriculum and it monitors children's achievement and progress.

The Resources Committee has grouped together the Finance and Personnel with Premises. Obviously in these days of cuts everything is impacted by finance and, as governors, one of our duties is to '*Oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent*' so it makes sense that premises and staffing come under that umbrella.

The Pupil, Parents and Community Committee continues the valuable contribution of the old Community Cohesion Committee with a wider responsibility of monitoring Safeguarding.

These committees will be meeting for the first time in their new format in the next few weeks prior to our next full governing body meeting in November.

Another thing that we continue to monitor and investigate is the rather topical question of Multi Academy Trusts (MAT's). Penny, Michele and Gerry have done a great deal of research into the options open to us and, as a full governing body we will be looking at the best way forward for the school.

If you've not yet read it, the 2015-16 Governors' Annual Report that can be found in the Governors section on the school website, is well worth reading.

Governors will be attending different events e.g. the Christmas fair, parent evenings, carol service, assemblies etc. and can be identified by their badges. Please feel free to introduce yourselves and raise any questions with us.

Gerry Stride