



Governor's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2012/2013

Welcome to our 4th Governor Newsletter and our first of the 2012-2013 academic year. In the content of this newsletter we will aim to give you an update on progress to date and an overview of our priorities.

This newsletter is meant to be informative and contains some important messages to you as Parents / Carers in how you can support the school to help us all drive improvement through the school. We would welcome feedback on any issues that you would like us to consider. You can contact us via the School using the following methods:

Tel/Fax: 01400 230871

E-mail: enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk

[Who are your School Governors?](#)

The current Governing Body is made up of the following members;

ELECTED & EX-OFFICIO GOVERNORS 2012-2013.

Chairperson / Parent Governor	Mr Steven Hartley
Clerk to Governors	Mrs Zoe France
Vice Chairperson / Parent Governor	Mr Rob Vine
Head teacher (Ex-officio)	Mrs Katie Good
Community Governor	Dr. Diane Gilmore
Community Governor	Dr. Ian Lyons
Community Governor	Vacancy
L.E.A. Governor	Mrs Viki Thomas
Foundation Governor (Ex-officio)	Revd Alan Littlewood
Foundation Governor	Vacancy
Parent Governor	Vacancy
Parent Governor	Mr Simon Stafford
Parent Governor	Mr Rob Farrant
Teaching Staff Governor	Vacancy
Support Staff Governor	Mrs Kate Dillon
Associate Member (Finance)	Mrs Tracey Elmes
Associate Member (Curriculum)	Vacancy

[Role of a School Governor](#)

You can find out further information on the role of School Governors by visiting:

- www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/governance



Special Mention

Our longest serving member of the Governing Body, Mr Colin Blankley has resigned from his position as Parent Governor due in part to the growth of his business and his other commitments which Colin felt were detracting from his ability to fulfil his role on the Governing Body. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Colin for giving us over three and a half years of his family's time to support the children of Ancaster and wish him all the best.

School Governance Overview

- As mandated by School Law your Governing Body resolved to appoint Rob Vine and I to the positions of Vice Chairperson & Chairperson respectively for another year, both Rob and I recognise the responsibility given over to us by our fellow Governors and we will continue to lead our highly committed and motivated Governing Body in the pursuit of giving your children the best possible start in life and an environment in which to reach their potential and "be the best they can be".
- As always we have been working hard to secure additional Governors onto the committee to add breadth and additional support to the Head Teacher to continue our drive for improvement. We are very pleased that Mrs Zoe France has joined us in the position of Clerk to Governors, a role that is at times very demanding but without which a Governing Body struggles to be truly effective.
- In line with our "Instrument of Governance" we currently have vacancies for a second Foundation Governor and a third Community Governor and we continue to look at opportunities to fill those vacancies to strengthen the leadership of the school.
- As I alluded to in July we would also be very keen to appoint a second Associate Member to our GB, someone with key subject matter skills centred on Standards and Curriculum in Primary Schools. If you feel you can add value to the school in this capacity please get in touch with the school through the normal channels. For more information on Associate Member status within Schools please use the following link:

<http://education.gov.uk/a0056694/categories-and-roles-of-school-governors>

The following spreadsheet also summarises the information specific to Associate Members very well.

<http://www.egfl.org.uk/categories/governance/support/associatemembers>

- Your Governing Body has worked tirelessly over the course of 2012 to really embed the foundations of School Governance by having a full and detailed review of all policies within school. These will be continually reviewed and amended where necessary and will form the basis of our Monitoring and Evaluation visits going forward to ensure adherence and effectiveness of the Policies. Just to put this into perspective the school currently has over 40 Policies which we have to ensure are fit for purpose and bound us to the requirements of the Law.
- Your Governing Body is also working hard to ensure there is a culture of continuous improvement across all aspects of school life but heavily weighted towards Teaching & Learning and Leadership and Management as these are the areas that can offer the most value to your child making the greatest progress.



Highlights

- At the end of the Financial Year (March 2012) the Staffing & Finance Sub-Committee were very pleased to report to the FGB that the school had moved back into the black for the first time in nearly 5 years. This is an extremely significant milestone and one that had been impacting the rate of improvement across the whole of the school. We are now able to utilise our full budget allocation in our quest to drive the pace of improvement throughout the school in key areas such as teaching & learning.
- As a Governing Body we are always analysing and scrutinising data, in the main by our Curriculum Committee, and this data clearly shows, in a very high percentage, 87%, of cases, your children continue to make at least good progress in their outcomes (Attainment) and the trend continues to be upwards across the whole school as we strive for excellence for every child. In cases where good progress is not currently being achieved, highlighted children or group intervention is immediately scoped to bring those children or groups back making good progress.
- The new Deputy Head position, as resolved by the Full Governing Body (FGB) last year, is also providing more room for leadership growth and a more strategic window of opportunity within the Senior Leadership Team for improvement areas to be highlighted and exploited in line with the Schools Development Plan (SDP).
- The Schools financial position continues to be broadly in line with the budgets set at the start of the School's financial year, which is 1st April, and our Staffing and Finance Committee (S&FC) meet at least five times per academic year to review expenditure before reporting back into the FGB with their assessment.
- I hope as Parents / Carers you have noticed some of the improvements that have been made both in and around the school. The Head teacher and Staff have worked hard to recognise where improvements can be made to maximise the Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) in line with the targets set within the SDP and have used the School's Devolved Capital money to turn their ideas into reality, I'm sure your children have discussed with you some of their feelings towards the improvements. It is very much a part of the Schools overall vision to develop our children outside the classroom as well as in it.
- As our long serving PTFA Chair, Helen Maughan, leaves behind a legacy of leading the PTFA in providing additional funds and some great memories for which we are very thankful, there is a new look to your PTFA this year as we welcome members new and old who will I'm sure continue to give us their valuable time to organise some great events. Please support wherever possible as all the money raised goes directly back into school and therefore back to the children.

Going Forward

- As reported recently in the national press, more scrutiny is being placed on schools to provide tangible evidence that Pupil Premium money (which is additional to main school funding, and is seen as the best way to address the current national underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those whom are not by ensuring that funding to tackle any inequalities reaches the pupils who need it most) is being used to raise ATTAINMENT and not as Ofsted chief Sir Michael Wilshaw described "Tarmacking Playgrounds". Therefore the S&FC will work on behalf of the FGB with the Curriculum Committee to ensure that a joined up approach at committee level will lead to evidence being generated that proves we are giving everyone the best available opportunity to progress.



- Governor's focus for 2012-13 is to improve our visibility in School with increased Monitoring & Evaluation visits, focusing on Safeguarding; Policy adherence and classroom / subject support and challenge. A number of governors have already visited the school this term and have been waqrmly received and suitable impressed with the continuing high standards. We record our visits and any actions or outcomes for future follow up. This is seen as an effective method of School Governance and strengthens the bond between Governors; staff & Children alike.
- We have a new Website!!! (www.ancasterprimary.org.uk) Significant effort has gone in to raising the profile of our great School and our website is one of the first ports of call for any new parents, existing Parents / Carers, OFSTED inspectors and many others. We hope you will see it grow over the next few weeks into an informative and reflective area for you to see firsthand both what has been done and what is to come. Please feedback any comments, good or bad, to our deputy head that will be more than happy to receive feedback.
- Subject focus for Term 2 is all around Religious Education and Term 3 is around Science (including outdoor learning). For more information please see the Class Teacher or Head teacher.
- The Curriculum and Enrichment topics for term 2 will be around Anti-Bullying, "Time Detectives" and "It's a Miracle", again for more information please see the Class Teacher or Head teacher.

Safeguarding

I make no apologies for leaving this section relatively un-touched; it is by far our biggest priority. You entrust your children with us every day on the premise that they are to be safe as well as educated, I know you, like us, will do your utmost to work with us to protect the children and staff of Ancaster CfE School.

In the words of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector:

'Safeguarding...is an issue addressed not only with increasing sureness by those responsible for keeping children and learners safe, but one felt keenly by those most vulnerable to harm and neglect.'

As a school we are responsible for every aspect of your child's safety and wellbeing, we feel we are doing this well under our control within the school grounds; however we could all do more to ensure this extends out into the community. In particular we are all concerned for the safety and wellbeing of everyone outside of the school gates, specifically at drop off and pick up times. There is recognition that the amount of parking, egress and ingress to the school is limited due in part to our rural location. That said it would help protect everyone if:

- We DO NOT use the area outside our school gates as a turning circle under any circumstances,
- We please respect the designated no parking zones as defined by the road markings?
- Avoid parking on the corner of Mercia Drive & Ermine Street
- Give the Lollipop Person specific room too effectively and safely get pedestrians across the busy main road and give them line of sight for oncoming traffic by avoiding parking the school side of the Post Office.

Just like you we are concerned that after all the hard work put in by the community to ensure the highways department continued to provide us with a crossing service they have been unable to fill the



position. We like you will continue to help where we can to get someone in place, ultimately though it is the responsibility of our local council to provide this service.

Academies

No further discussions have taken place with respect to Academies. Should they we will inform you immediately. In OFSTED speak our priority is to embed Good to Outstanding practices within the school, show we can sustain the levels at which the School is currently operating and build on the foundations we are beginning strengthen.

Dates for your Diaries

Term 2

School Opens Monday 5th November 2012

School Closes Friday 21st December 2012

Term 3

School Opens Tuesday 8th January 2013

School Closes Friday 15th February 2013

Know your Governors

Hi, my name is Robert Vine, I am 50 years old and I am currently the Vice Chairman of the Governing body and Chairman of the Curriculum Committee. I am married to Helen and have two children Jordan 11 years and Lauren 9 years. Lauren attends the school as did Jordan until this term when he moved to year 7 at St Georges Sleaford. I was born in Portsmouth where my Parents still live, but spent most of my working life in and around Crawley, West Sussex.

I was appointed a Parent Governor in February 2010. Working with the school has been a very humbling experience. The amount of work that goes into the running of the school and the level of dedication required of the staff at all levels is extremely high. I can only hope to do my best to help the school become as successful as possible, by supporting and challenging the staff and the senior leadership team.



I started my working career as an apprentice fitter and turner at the HM Naval base in Portsmouth. When I finished my apprenticeship, I moved to Crawley to further my career and worked in the tool making industry, then in general manufacturing until I started my first company in 1999. The company was reasonably successful; we had a good run of 8 years supporting a large semi-conductor manufacturer in Horsham West Sussex. When they

moved their factories to Austin, Texas, we decided a change was due. We moved to the Grantham area in 2007 to be closer to Helen's parents and sister.



After building our house in Sudbrook, I started a new business venture in the renewables industry.

Based from a home office I advise commercial and domestic clients on how the various technologies can help keep their energy costs to a minimum and provide a strategy for low carbon emissions over pre-determined period.

My hobbies include golf (when I get the opportunity). I enjoy following motorcycle racing and qualified as a level 1 football coach a few years ago and managed a team at Ancaster Athletic Youth Football Club until last year. I also help out at the school's football events. We have an active home life. A very energetic border collie, Arnie, demands our constant attention. Lauren likes to go horse riding and Jordan enjoys his football and plays for Ancaster and St Georges. We all enjoy active holidays and have over the last couple of years returned to Lake Annecy as it offers all the activities we enjoy, in beautiful surroundings.

In Closing

As always I would like to start by giving a personal word of thanks to my Governing Body, including those who have moved on; who work tirelessly, without financial reward, to ensure Ancaster is a school we can all be proud of.

On behalf of the Governing Body of Ancaster school I believe we are representing your best interests and with the make-up of the Governing Body being split across various functions, Parents; Community, Local Authority; Foundation and Teaching Staff there is plenty of meaningful debate and outcomes that are delivered to benefit our children. If at any point you would like to pass comment on the way in which the school is being governed then please feedback comments good or bad to any of us at anytime, we need to work with you to ensure your needs are being met.

As a School we believe we are well placed to be inspected against the latest framework as issued by OFSTED from September 2012. The Governing Body has undertaken additional OFSTED Framework training as a follow up to a session we had in March of this year to give us the best possible chance of representing strong Leadership & Governance. Whilst this is often a daunting and intimidating process for Staff & Governors alike we will strive to represent Ancaster in the best possible light.

I hope you and your families have a great October half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back at School in November fully recharged and ready for the challenges ahead.

Best Regards

Steve Hartley

Chair of Governors