

# HUNSDON

## Governors' News



### Spring Term 2018

### Letter from the Chair

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems to have been a prolonged cold winter this year and thankfully, despite widespread travel chaos, the snow only caused a minor disruption to the school. Thanks go to Mr Millward and the staff for persevering through the weather to ensure our pupils kept up their education.

During this term some of the pupils got the chance to take part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 in London. Overall a great experience. However, the event was tainted for our pupils by an issue with the coach return journey. Whilst this was out of the schools control, it did highlight an opportunity to improve the school procedures around communication with parents for out-of-hours events. After consultation with several sets of parents Mr Millward has put in place some new procedures for future events to aid communication.

There have been a number of governing body changes this term – see later article in the newsletter for details. The governing body would like to thank Jen Bone for her excellent contribution as she steps down. We also welcome Steve Price and Sikhu Ngwenya who committed their time to the school to take up new roles. Also thanks to Matt Simpson and Lynn Barnett who have renewed their terms, which keeps their expertise in the governing body they are doing a great job.

The governing body are delighted to say that the school has received a letter from Rt Hon Nick Gibb, who is Minister of State for School Standards, congratulating the school on last year's performance in the KS2 SATS and being in the top 0.1% of schools in the country. This is the second year in a row such a letter has been received, a "remarkable achievement"! Congratulations to the pupils, the staff and everyone involved in the school on their achievements.

I will leave you with a Happy Easter wish and hope you all have a great break!

Edward Nicklin

Chair of Governors

Hunsdon JMI

## Your Governing Body

Ed Nicklin	Co-opted Governor, Chair of Governors	Sikhu Ngwenya	Co-opted Governor
Mike Newman	Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair	David Wilson	Co-opted Governor
Karen Osterley	Clerk to the Governors	Lynn Barnett	Parent Governor
Jon Millward	Head Teacher	Matt Simpson	Co-opted Governor
Lindzee Macaulay	Teacher Governor	Daniel Munn	Parent Governor Rep.
Andrew Turner	Associate Governor	Steve Price	Parent Governor

## Governors Responsibilities

### Key Role of Governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Ensuring the Head Teacher maintains a high educational performance of the school and its pupils, and performance manage his staff
- Overseeing financial performance and ensuring the money is well spent
- Installing a process and drive for continuous improvement (little by little, step by step)

## Changes in the Governing Body

There have been a number of changes in the governing body this term. Firstly the governing body would like to thank Jen Bone for her involvement and contribution to the governing body and curriculum committee. Unfortunately Jen has chosen to step down, but her insight into the teaching and the SEN role provided us with valuable information as governors.

Two of our parent governor terms ended this term, so as you will have seen these roles were re-advertised. We are delighted that Matt Simpson and Lynn Barnett chose to re-stand for the parent governor roles. They are doing a great job so it is great to keep their knowledge and experience within the governing body. We are also delighted that Steve Price chose to stand for a parent governor role. Steve comes with a strong business background – see Steve's Biog later in this Newsletter – and will sit on the Finance Committee. Lynn and Steve will slot into the two parent governor roles and Matt becomes co-opted into the spot vacated by Jen.

Sikhu Ngwenya has also taken a co-opted post on the governing body – also see his short biog in this newsletter – and comes with a strong educational background and will sit on the curriculum committee. Sikhu fills a vacancy in the governing body, which was vacated by Andrew Turner, who has moved to associate governor and maintains the Newsletter and website conformance roles.

This leaves one vacancy on the governing body, which we will be looking to fill through the summer term.

So a fair amount of change, which keeps the governing body fresh, and we look forward to the contribution from our new governors. A big thanks to all of our governors new and established for their time and commitment, which is greatly appreciated and is essential for the running of the school.

## New Governor Biography — Sikhu Ngwenya

My children have been and are students at Hunsdon. One left a few years ago and another is currently in Ash class. They have received an excellent start to their education at Hunsdon. I am a teacher in a high school and have been a staff governor in a previous role. That experience has encouraged me to get involved in my own children's school, hence my participation. I am interested in educational matters, in particular, curriculum mapping, student well-being and student voice/agency.

## New Governor Biography — Steve Price

I have been living in Hunsdon for 5 years and my two sons attend Hunsdon JMI. I have a BSc and PhD in medicinal chemistry and have worked in the pharmaceutical industry for the past 22 years leading research teams across a number of therapeutic areas, including oncology, respiratory and infectious diseases, to identify new medicines. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my wife and children, including camping, and I have recently undertaken several triathlons.

## Committee News

### - Personnel Committee Role

The personnel committee role is to focus on items related to staffing. We regularly review the staff structure, succession planning, specific staffing needs based on pupil levels. We discuss the provision of staff training and development, and performance management.

The staff are one of our key stakeholders so job satisfaction is important and feedback is sought from questionnaires, the Head Teacher's assessment and governor visits.

We decide on the recruitment policy, interview staff as required, but particularly for key senior roles within the school. We also link with the finance committee on the school pay policy and salary budgets.

One of the most important roles of the governors associated with personnel matters is the Head Teacher's appraisal. Two governors make a panel that carries out the Head Teacher annual appraisal in conjunction with our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner educational advisor. The panel also carry out a mid-year appraisal. The Head Teacher has objectives for the year which the panel assesses performance against along with Ofsted leadership guidelines and Head Teacher national standards of excellence.

## Dates for your diary:

### Summer Term 2018

Term starts	Monday	16th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday	7th May
Half Term	Monday	28th May - Friday 1st June
Inset Day	Friday	22nd June
Inset Day	Monday	25th June
Term Ends	Tuesday	24th July (at 2.30 pm)
Inset Day	Wednesday	25th July
Occasional Day	Thursday	26th July
Occasional Day	Friday	27th July

## Department of Education letter

We are very happy to see that the hard work we all put in has been formally recognised. Hunsdon. Progress scores of 5.8, 4.0 and 6.9 in English reading, writing and maths mean the school is in the top 2% of schools in England in terms of the progress the pupils made between KS1 and KS2. The DoE want to ensure every child has the necessary fluency in reading writing and mathematics to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond and the letter congratulates the school for achieving this.

## Friends' of Hunsdon School News

As ever, thanks go to the Friends of Hunsdon School for their support with fundraising activities. Funds raised recently have been spent on supporting the school in delivering 'Wow' experiences - paying for special visitors and coaches to interesting places. Please look out for details of the next events in 2018!

## Happy Easter Holidays!

The Governors would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and staff for their continued commitment and support for Hunsdon JMI and to wish everyone a very happy and Easter break.



**Hunsdon Governor News is also available in large print.  
Please contact the School for a copy**