

# HUNSDON

## Governors' News



Summer Term 2018

### Letter from the Chair

Dear Parents/Carers

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Apparently, the future Queen Elizabeth I wrote that "every dog hath its day" and having been on the governing body of Hunsdon JMI since 1994, it seems mine has arrived. It's a privilege to be holding the reins as Chair of Governors currently and to present this edition of Governors' News.

I'll start by publicly thanking Ed Nicklin for the huge amount of time and effort he put in during his tenure as Chair. The attention to detail he applied meant that the hand-over in April was quite straightforward and, I hope, meant also that it was 'business as usual' throughout the school – which is, after all, what we strive to achieve.

Having thanked Ed, I will note that within a couple of months of his departure we were suddenly faced by an Ofsted inspection – so if ever Ed offers tips at the races or buys a Lottery ticket, I should follow his lead. The inspection did come as something of a surprise, arriving right at the very beginning of the window within which we were due it, but - again - thanks to being in a state of 'continuous preparedness' throughout the whole school, I think we avoided too much panic. In fact, I can honestly report, the attitude among staff and governors was "bring it on; we're looking forward to showing you our school". And so it was - as Mr Millward has already informed you - that we achieved the best outcome possible; the Inspector believes we are better than the current 'good' rating but we must undergo another, more extensive, inspection sometime between one and two years hence to confirm that assessment.

Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised by that outcome, given the outstanding results that have been achieved over the past couple of years—but we know that results are not the only measure of a great school, and it was wonderful to read in the Inspector's report that she acknowledged the professionalism of all the staff, the enthusiasm and immaculate behaviour of the students and the many other aspects of life at Hunsdon JMI that make it such a very special place.

**Mike Newman**

Chair of Governors  
Hunsdon JMI School

## Your Governing Body

Mike Newman	Local Authority Governor / Chair of Governors 01279 843358 / 07887 540398 / m.newman@hunsdon.herts.sch.uk		
Karen Osterley	Clerk to the Governors		
Lynn Barnett	Parent Governor	Diane Fossey	Co-opted Governor
Lindzee Macaulay	Teacher Governor	Jonathan Millward	Headteacher
Daniel Munns	Parent Governor	Sikhu Ngwenya	Co-opted Governor
Steve Price	Parent Governor	Matt Simpson	Co-opted Governor
Andrew Turner	Associate Governor	David Wilson	Co-opted Governor
One vacancy			

## Governors' Responsibilities

The 'official' role of the governing board is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

..all of which I believe we do effectively. However I hope, in Hunsdon JMI, we do more than that. Insofar as work commitments allow, you will often see governors involved in the day-to-day activities of the school, both as a means to contribute to students' learning but also to see at first hand how the school runs in order that we can fulfil that strategic role.

## Changes in the Governing Body

The 'Instrument of Governance' for our school, provided by Herts County Council, defines the composition of the Governing Body: 3 parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor, 1 staff governor, 1 Headteacher and 5 co-opted governors - 11 in total. From the list above you'll see we are one short and, as of April with Ed Nicklin's loss, we were two short—both co-opted governors.

Many of you will know Diane Fossey, and that she was a highly valued member of the governing body until a couple of years ago when she felt 'something had to give' in terms of her work and other commitments. However those pressures now seem to have eased and, with her particular knowledge of adult and child social services being so relevant to the current priority on 'wellbeing' throughout the school, then I'm delighted that she has accepted our invitation to re-join. Diane (Di) has provided a short pen-picture of herself for information overleaf.

Meanwhile we do have 'feelers' out with the village to fill the remaining vacancy and I am absolutely confident that, come the beginning of the new academic year in September, we will back up to complement with a fresh, new and extremely competent new governor.

## Our New Governor - Diane Fossey

I have lived in the village for 20 years and have been involved in many village activities such as the Cubs group and Quintessence the local drama group. My son Freddy attended Hunsdon JMI and I initially joined the Governing body in 2006 and served for 11 years.



I am a qualified social worker, and I am able to bring my work experience to this role. After a short absence I am delighted to re-join the governing body of Hunsdon school, my role will have a particular focus on wellbeing. As a qualified social worker I am able to bring my work experience to this role. Wellbeing will encompass the whole school community, pupils and staff alike.

As part of my role I will spend time in school, so please do come and say hello when you see me

## 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!

## Dates for your diary:

### AUTUMN TERM 2018

<i>Inset Day</i>	- Monday 3rd September 2018
Term Starts	- Tuesday 4th September
<i>Inset Day</i>	- Thursday 25th October
<i>Occasional Day</i>	- Friday 26th October
Half Term	- Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November
Term Ends	- Friday 21st December (at 2.30pm)

## Happy Holidays!

It's the end of the academic year and everyone in school is, I'm sure, looking forward to a well-earned summer break. It's been another year of great success for the school in so many different ways and the governors are privileged to be associated with that success. In no particular order we:

- wish to express our huge appreciation to Jonathan Millward and all the teaching and non-teaching staff for their commitment to, and hard work for the school, and which was reflected in the glowing Ofsted report
- offer our best wishes to those students that are leaving for the big, wide world of secondary education
- thank the many people who come into school on a voluntary basis to assist with one-to-one support for students and/or other supplements to the curriculum
- offer our thanks and wish well for the future to the handful of staff that are moving on at the end of term
- extend a warm welcome to children and their families who are due to join us in in September
- hope that everyone associated with the school has a great summer break and comes back refreshed, ready for the new school year

And finally, as Chair of Governors, I would like to thank my colleagues for their commitment over the past year, as we look forward to ensuring that Hunsdon JMI continues "Working together to learn, achieve, thrive and be happy"



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