



## Governor Newsletter – Spring 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of our Governor Newsletter. At the start of the school year, we welcomed 60 new children in to Foundation and there have been new children throughout other year groups. BHPS continues to be a popular school with a large number of children on the waiting list for the Foundation Year Group. We are beginning to reach capacity in all other year groups and are nearing our overall capacity of 420 children.

There seems to be no time of year when school life is quiet – not only is school life busy, the work undertaken by Governor's keeps them busy too!

During the past year we have welcomed three new Governor's, Katherine Calder, Callum Bett and Claire Tonks. Each of them brings a different skill set to complement the skills we have within the Governing Body. We said goodbye to Margaret Summerfield, Yael Maier, Juliette Sunderland and Sue Headland and would like to thank them all for their work and commitment during their terms of office. Details of the new Governors, along with the rest of the Governing Body can be found on the school website. In addition, there is a brief introduction to all Governors at the end of this newsletter.

Of course the last year has seen a time of change with the recruitment of our Headteacher, Pete Taylor. Governors have supported him whilst he settled in to his new role and you will be aware of some of the changes Pete has implemented during his time here. Pete is passionate about ensuring the continued success of the school. He is keen to make sure there is continuous improvement in all areas of the school and that we do not become complacent in the delivery of teaching and learning along with the extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities for the children.

Other activities undertaken by the Governing Body during the past year have included:

- Monitoring of attendance by children at school
- Review of 'new look' end of year report to parents
- Ensuring the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is up to date and being adhered to
- Ensuring that British Values is included in the teaching and learning provided to children
- Reviewing the performance data of the school
- Monitoring of Head Teacher performance
- Review of writing within school
- Health and Safety Audit
- Attendance at a number of class/year group assemblies and performances
- Monitoring of the School Improvement Plan and ensuring the school are undertaking to improve in the areas identified
- Approval and monitoring of school budget
- Assisting in the recruitment of new staff
- Review of the parent and pupil surveys

We will all be aware The Bramcote School is looking to rebuild its facilities on the site of the old Bramcote Hills Secondary School. This is an exciting time for The Bramcote School and their new facilities will have a positive effect not only on their own students but the wider community and, importantly for us, on the children at BHPS as we continue to use their facilities for some of our own in-school curriculum delivery. At this stage we are unsure of how the building works and location of the new build will impact BHPS; whenever there is consultation, we will ensure that the voice of our school is heard.

During the past year, the school has formally joined a collaboration of the local family of schools. This is not a legally binding agreement; it simply allows us to access other local schools in the area to share knowledge, governor experience, resources and help with our buying power for school purchases.

The school has also become part of the George Spencer Teaching Alliance. It is important to note that this does not change our status of being a Local Authority Maintained School. OfSTED and the Department for Education are keen that all schools look to continually improve and joining this alliance will allow us access to training

courses and best practice, as well as gather advice on how other schools have dealt with issues we may not have come up against previously. We see this as a real positive for our school.

BHPS continues to be successful in sporting activities and competitions. The children enjoy representing BHPS – they do themselves proud, whilst learning lots of skills they can use outside of school now and in the future. A few of the highlights are below:

- The Football team has been very successful; they did not lose a game all year and finished top of the Broxtowe schools football league. They were runners up in the Nottinghamshire FA U10 Tournament losing 1-0 in Penalty shoot out.
- All members of the netball squad have played in at least one match this season with the team losing just two games.
- Both the football team and netball team are looking forward to playing in the Broxtowe Tournament on 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- The Swimming team came first in the gala.
- The Athletics Team progressed to the Broxtowe Finals but unfortunately not any further this year
- The Indoor Rowing Team came first against five other schools.
- The KS1 and KS2 Cheerleading Teams did BHPS proud, with both teams finishing 2nd.

There are still lots of events coming up - cricket tournaments, Rounder's tournament, Quadkids Athletics and the Dri Tri competition and we look forward to hearing how well the children have performed.

## **Current Governor's**

A brief introduction to each Governor is below – further details can be found on the school website.



### **Richard Knightsbridge - Chair of Governors**

I have been a Governor since 1995 and have been Chair for the past 11 years. In addition to attending regular in-school meetings I often attend assemblies, school council meetings and help coach the school cricket teams. I live locally and am now semi-retired. My wife was a long serving staff member and both my daughters are past pupils.



### **Cate Ross-Waddell - Vice Chair of Governing Body**

I am a part-time lecturer in German at Nottingham Trent University and my three children all attended BHPS. I enjoy contributing to the life of the school and helping to ensure that every child reaches their potential.



### **Pete Taylor**

I joined Bramcote Hills Primary in April 2016 and, in addition to being Head Teacher, I am also a Governor of the school. I have served on governing bodies for over 20 years at four different schools. I have been involved in teaching since 1990 when I graduated from Nottingham Trent University (B-Ed Hons). In total, I have worked in seven schools as a Teacher, Deputy Head and then, since 2004, as a Head Teacher. I also try to see schooling from a parental perspective, having had two children go through the school system in the local area. I am passionate about teaching and learning and am excited about what we can achieve at Bramcote Hills.



**David Watts**

I was originally elected as a parent governor and then co-opted after my term as a parent governor finished. I have a daughter (Molly) at the school and my older daughter also came here before moving on to Bramcote School when she reached year 7. My wife Gill is a past chair of the PTA. I am a solicitor working in Nottingham and was previously a borough councillor on Broxtowe Borough Council.



**Ty Yousaf**

I passionately believe that good education is vital to children's future prospects and I am supporting BHP to ensure children are being helped to achieve to the best of their abilities. I have a background in child protection work and service improvement work. I am a father of three children.



**Peter Whyard**

I have been a teacher at BHPS since January 2004 and am currently teaching in Year 4. I run the athletics club and occasionally referee home football matches. My in school my responsibilities include Assessment Co-ordinator and taking a lead on Enterprise.



**Eileen Atherton**

Before I left work to have children I was the Secretary to a Partner in a firm of Solicitors in Nottingham. After having my eldest daughter I left that employment and for 34 years from 1968 to 2002 I was the Licensee of an Off Licence in Central Avenue Beeston. I am Secretary of the Beeston & District Civic Society from October 2003 and was elected a Member of Broxtowe Borough Council for the Chilwell West Ward in May 2007, 2011 and 2015.



**Michelle Whiley**

I have been working at BHPS for over 17 years and currently work in Year 5 and have various roles within school. This year I have taken on a new role of teaching PE to years 3-6 covering PPA. I also organise the cycle training and many sporting events we are fortunate to be involved in. I also work for the City Council undertaking a Play and Youth Worker role.



### **Katherine Calder**

I have a daughter who started in Foundation in September 2016 as well as a younger son who goes to nursery part-time. I currently work 1 day a week as a self-employed accountant. I am also the PTA Treasurer. I qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG 10 years ago, and spent 5 years in the Audit department there before moving to work in the Corporate Finance team at the University of Nottingham for nearly 6 years. As a finance professional, I bring strong monitoring and performance appraisal skills that I apply in my role within the Governing Body. I am committed to helping BHPS achieve its potential and continue to produce well rounded individuals.



### **Nick Grayling**

I am an ex-pupil of the school with a daughter in Year 6. My professional role has provided me with experiences and skills such as people management, communication, commercial & budget planning. I have completed my 4 year term, but Mr Taylor and Richard Knightsbridge asked if I could stay on to contribute with my link roles. I also sit on the Finance and General Purposes committee where I am able to use my commercial skills and back ground to good use.



### **Calum Bett**

I have a daughter in year 2 and a son in Foundation. I am currently a house husband and have been for the past five years. Prior to this career change, I worked in senior finance roles both in the UK and Australia. I am looking forward to contributing in any way I can to make the school the best it can be.



### **Kirsten Rawson**

I have a daughter in year 6 and another in Foundation. My current role is as an IT advisor for the Education Funding Agency working on the Priority Schools Building Programme. Previous professional roles have provided me with experience in managing people and managing buildings, and all the associated tasks this brings such as appraising staff, managing projects (IT, building and change related), ensuring budgets are set and buildings managed safely and efficiently. Until 2015, I had been involved in Scouting for 25 years.



### **Simon Atkinson**

I have a son who has now left BHPS and a daughter in year 4. I want to ensure that the school provides the best education possible for our children. I have a background in IT as both a software developer and a business analyst. I also have a keen interest in education and learning and am currently studying for an MA degree in Education.



### **Roger Spowage**

I have been involved at BHPS for around 18 years I have had four boys go through the school with the last one leaving in 2010. I was treasurer of the PTA for about 13 years and when I decided to step down Mr Pearson asked if I would like to continue my involvement with the school. I am keen to see everyone involved with the school do well and the school to continue to be a valuable part of the local community. I run a small business in the area and like to try and provide some advice and input in connection with the schools finances.



### **Claire Tonks**

I have three boys, two of whom are at BHPS in year 6 and 3 and a son who left BHPS two years ago. I am delighted to be able to work with the governing body to help ensure that the school provides the best all round education possible for our children, and maintains its thriving and progressive culture. I am a solicitor and regularly advise schools, academies and colleges on governance and compliance issues and want to work with the expertise that the governing body has by sharing best practice that I have gleaned through working with other schools.

Governors can be contacted by letter via the school office should you have any issues you wish to raise in confidence.