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Governors' Newsletter

Summer 2019

Dear Amberley Families,

We once again come to the end of the school year, with the sun and warm weather hopefully here to stay for the holidays. As always, the end of the school year is the time for saying both thank you and good bye. I will start with a big thank you to Miss Cale and her staff. They continue to work hard to ensure the children of Amberley fulfil their potential whilst also having lots of fun and enjoyment. This was very evident in both the excellent SATs results and the end of year play. What a performance and a fitting way to say goodbye to the year 6 students, many of whom I remember leaving playgroup to join Dexter class. The Governors wish them all the best in their future adventures and hope to see them back around school from time to time. During the year we said a temporary goodbye to Mrs Hawkins and we wish her well for the rest of her maternity leave. I have to say a big thank you to Mrs Harbord for stepping in and looking after Friesian class so well.

I took over as Chair of the Governing Body at the start of the Summer term and I would like to thank Clare Atherton for all of her hard work during her time as Chair. All of the governors are very grateful that she remains a governor and is continuing to bring her Special Educational Needs expertise to both the school and the Governing Body. During this term the governors have been continuing our visits and monitoring of the school and we were delighted to see the new curriculum meeting so well attended, especially by KS1 parents. There was lots of positive and helpful feedback that the governors and staff will take on board.

We do say goodbye to a few governors; Anne Morris, Sarah Duval-Fryer and Sarah Penn. I would like to thank them for giving up their time to help with the running of the school. Sarah Penn is swapping her governors role for the class room and we look forward to seeing Mrs Penn welcome the new intake of Dexter children in September. We are consequently on the lookout for some new governors, thank you to all of those who have already come forward to express their interest. The school will be appointing new foundation governors and we will also need a new parent governor. Details for nominations for the Parent Governor will be announced in September so please think about whether you might want to join the Governing Body over the summer.

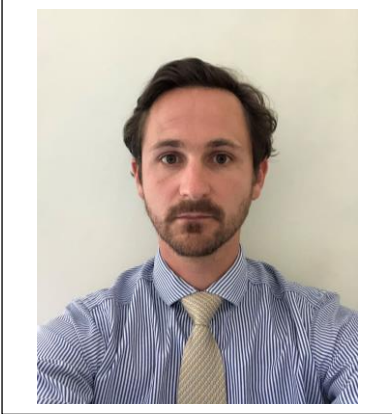
2019-2020 will be an exciting school year with the roll out of the new curriculum, and there are some great plans brewing for the "Planny" area at the back of the school.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to wish you all a very good summer holiday and look forward to seeing you again in September.

James Holmes

Chair of Governors

Governor Profiles



James Gegg

Committee: Performance and Standards

I grew up locally and after university I moved to London where I spent 10 years first as a management consultant advising hedge funds then working for an investment bank. I moved back to the area when I took over my Family Jewellery business 4 years ago. I have one child in year one at Amberley and one about to start in reception.

Why I volunteered as a Governor:

I wanted to get more involved in the school and the community and add value where possible to aid children, the school and the wider community achieve their potential. I also really enjoy being part of a team where everyone has a common goal.

How I have found my first 6 months:

I have loved the experience and the role and I have been really surprised how much authority the board of governors have and how important their function is. It is such a varied role so many different areas to focus on. Amberley is a great school to be a governor at as they have brilliant two-way relationship with the head teacher and the teaching staff which make everything much simpler.



Kath Cross – Foundation Governor

Committee: Performance and Standards

Having previously been a staff governor, I have been a foundation governor at Amberley for four years, and I have worked in school since 2010. I have two children (a son in Year 8 and a daughter in Yr 11), both of whom attended Amberley. I sit on the Performance and Standards (P&S) Committee and have governor responsibility for Hereford Class, RE and Art in school.

As both a governor and a member of staff, I feel very privileged to have played a small, supporting role in the transformational journey of our school under the headship of Miss Cale. During my time in this role, I have sat on a number of staff appointment panels and taken part in both Ofsted and SIAMS inspections.

I have particular interest in the opportunities for developing aspects of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision in school, and have very much enjoyed supporting Mrs. A. Smith and Mrs. Lury in delivering two whole school Prayer Station days – and accompanying Mrs. Crampton (RE Subject Leader) on an RE class observation.

As Art governor, I have been greatly encouraged by the raising of this subject's profile within school, and look forward to the implementation of the Amberley Curriculum of Immersion in the autumn.

More recently, I have very much enjoyed visiting Hereford Class as part of routine governor monitoring, talking to the children and Miss Holden, and sharing their enthusiastic learning in SPAG and English.

Pupil Voice is one aspect of monitoring which I particularly enjoy. Capturing the thoughts and observations of the children greatly helps us as staff and governors in planning how best to support the children's learning and enrichment. With the school year rapidly drawing to a close, I will be sitting down with the Year 6s for an exit interview, to record the group's memories of their Amberley journey and feelings about the imminent transition to secondary school. It is a lovely way to round off the academic year and I am always impressed with the thoughtful responses of our oldest children.

In my capacity as a staff member, I have had the privilege of working alongside this year group throughout their time at Amberley, and I would like, finally, to take this opportunity to wish them all every success in their future endeavours.