



Letter from the Chair of the Governors

Welcome to this spring issue of Key Stage, the Sheering School Governors' newsletter. Since the last Newsletter we have recruited three new Governors to the Governing Board, each of them bringing a variety of skills but more importantly they share our commitment in working with the whole school community to make our School the best place it can be for everyone.

Our new Governors have attended Induction training which gives them an introduction into what the role of governance involves. The Full Governing Board have attended a training session run by Essex Governor services on Curriculum which helped us to understand the statutory requirements for curriculum provision and to recognise the Governing Board's responsibilities. This generated some useful discussions, one of these being how we as a Governing Board can improve on how we engage with all stakeholders. We very much value the views of everyone so one of the items for our next meeting will be to look at this area.

I have attended a training session on Embedding Christian values and Rev'd Dawn and myself were very pleased to be able to join the staff for an INSET training one afternoon on Spirituality and the School and to think about how this area is developed in School.

An important part of Governance is monitoring and visits this term have monitored Assessment, Collective Worship, Safeguarding and Writing. One of the priorities from the School Development Plan is Writing and data shows that Talk for writing is having an impact on the progress of pupils across all years which is a very positive picture.

We were very pleased to hear that in the Real Schools Guide Sheering was ranked the 5th best performing school in Harlow and the surrounding areas out of 44, and 57th highest in Essex out of 377 schools. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very pleased that the hard work of the staff and pupils has been recognised in this way.

As I write this I am very much looking forward to attending the Easter Open afternoon in School and seeing all the children's work followed by the Easter concert.

On behalf of all the Governors we wish you all a happy Easter holiday and look forward to another successful summer term.

Best Wishes *Pamela Gaines*

Developing the Sheering medium and long term strategy

Setting course for the future, the Governing body has been looking into what Sheering School should look like in the medium and long term. We have started developing a school strategy that will help focus the Governing team going forward and set the agenda for activities.

Items being addressed by the Governors and management team on a strategic level are:

- The potential effects of the Epping District Council development plan and the impact on the school of new housing in the Sheering local area.
- The Government goal to get all schools (successful or otherwise) converted to academy status
- Governor training plans and skills development.

Church School Links

With the arrival of Rev'd Dawn Jewson in summer 2016 at St Mary's, church school links have been improving throughout the autumn and spring. Dawn as you will remember from her introduction letter is also a school governor.

Caroline Harding (from Hallingbury Church) and Rev'd Dawn both lead collective worship sessions in the school hall on Thursday mornings for the whole school.

During spring term, children have been to church for Mother's day and Easter services

Dawn will be playing an active part in increasing governor presence and will be in the playground on Thursday mornings prior to her collective worship sessions. Feel free to introduce yourselves and have an informal chat either in her role as Governor or Vicar.

The school is expecting its SIAMs inspection from September 2017 onwards. This inspection, led by the Church of England, focuses on a school's effectiveness in providing a high quality and distinctive church school education.

Welcome Governing Board Newbies

Paul Newman Hi, I am Paul Newman and I am an owner and Director of a Commercial Interior Fit Out Company. I am married to Sarah Newman and have two children, Spencer (9) and in year 4 and Reece (6).

Spencer has Selective Mutism which is an anxiety condition and means he doesn't speak freely in school. After struggling to get on in a larger Harlow school, Sheering School kindly accepted Spencer and with the fantastic support of the Head, Teachers, TA's and of course fellow children his anxieties have drastically reduced and he is now progressing well and is finally enjoying school.

We are so grateful to Sheering School and how they have looked after Spencer. His teacher, Mrs Guinan, in particular, is so committed to helping him and goes to every length possible, which has been a huge relief for us as parents. This dedication has given me a passion to help and support the school in any way I can and I am very pleased and proud to join the wonderful team of Governors here at Sheering.

Andy Kent Hello, I am Andy Kent and I am a Police Officer with the Metropolitan Police and have been so for the last fifteen years. I am married to Karen Kent and have three children, Tommy (16), Jack (12) and Gracie (8) (Fitzwalter). Jack was at Sheering but is now at Passmores Academy.

Jack came to Sheering after struggling at a local school in Harlow and with the help and support of Sheering School and in particular, Mrs Creed, I have seen my son grow into a charming, rounded young man with a keenness to learn. I became a governor to give something back as a thank you to Sheering School for all their hard work that has been given to Jack and Gracie and hopefully using some of my skills to help support Sheering in any way I can. In Sheering School Everyone Matters and through my experience of this wonderful school it does.

Cheryl Bedford Hi, I am Cheryl. I own and have lived at The Cock Inn opposite our village school since 1999. I have lived in Sheering since 1989. My husband William and myself along with our son John and his wife Lauren all work in our family business. Lucy Barton and Oliver Bedford both in Quickbury Class and Lily Bedford in Fitzwalter are 3 of my grandchildren, Jake Barton left last September to attend Leventhorpe.

I play a very active part in the smooth running of our business but recently have found that I have accumulated some spare time and thought there could be no better way to use it than to help with the continued success of our treasured and loved school. I do hope I can be of assistance to the existing Governors and all the very valuable teachers and staff who are already doing a terrific job. Cheryl x