



### Governor Newsletter April 2022

Firstly I must apologise for the fact that there has not been a Governor Newsletter for some time but this does not mean that the Governing Body has not been working hard to ensure that we are doing the best we can for all our pupils, given the resources we have available to us and the disruption still being caused by Covid 19.

It is against this background of disruption that we, as a governing body, salute the magnificent efforts of ALL staff at the school as they work tirelessly to maintain the high standards set by Dr. Mitchell and the leadership team. Even keeping the school open poses problems due to illness and lack of supply cover and not all schools have succeeded in this.

Currently the stress at all levels of education is to try and claw back the ground lost by pupils during the Pandemic. There is a great effort in the school to use Catch Up funding to best effect and we must single out the work of Mr. Hughes and his team working hard to support our vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils as part of this effort. We are able to confirm the great efforts of the staff as we have witnessed them ourselves. Unlike many Governing Bodies we have, regulations allowing, been going into school to observe and talk to staff and children as much as possible, and this provides evidence to outside bodies such as OFSTED that we are fully aware of activities in the school and are able to support and challenge where appropriate. We have regularly reviewed the School Development/Improvement Plan which is the main driver for change at our school.

At this time of year we review the school funding and draft a new 3 year budget for submission to the local authority. We are indebted in this task to our Finance Committee and the great efforts of Ann Mitchell our Bursar.

It is worth mentioning the increasing use of technology within the school and we have been happy to support, amongst other things, our PE and Sport platform, Jasmine, our music platform Charanga and a new recording system, Insight, as well as the expanded use of Tapestry, with which you will all be familiar, to all year groups. Shortly our new school website will be going live, courtesy of specialist providers Schudio, and we hope you will like what you see.

As with all Governing Bodies there is a turnover of personnel as governors reach the end of their term of office and we have parent governor vacancies. We are looking firstly at Year 2 parents whose children will be moving on but who would like to give something back to the school community which worked so hard for them in the first 3 years of their children's school career. As a Governing Body we would also like to reflect the diversity of the school community and that of the city as a whole so if you are a parent from a minority ethnic group we would encourage you to put yourself forward to become a governor for the school. If you are concerned about volunteering, I'm sure a chat with our Diversity Governor would reassure you.

[jaliakangave@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:jaliakangave@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk) -- diversity and wellbeing

May I take this time on behalf of the governing body to wish all pupils, staff and families a happy, safe and restful Easter holiday and we hope our hardworking staff will have a well-deserved rest!

Your support is much appreciated.

Tony Fallowfield [ vice chair of governors ]  
[tony.fallowfield@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:tony.fallowfield@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk)