



## Governors' Spring Newsletter 2022

Congratulations on reaching the end of what seems like a long term with the late Easter holidays. We are sure you are all looking forward to a nice break over Easter. Here is an update on what the Governing Board have been up to during the Spring term.

### Update on Governing Board



David Daly  
Parent Governor

We are delighted to welcome David Daly to the governing board as a Parent governor. David will be sitting on the Resources Committee and subject link for Humanities. David has a son in reception, at The Gattons, and a daughter at nursery. He volunteered for the Parent Governor role as a way to give back and support the school. Professionally, he is a Chartered Wealth Manager and runs a financial services company providing investment advice to financial intermediaries, global institutions, trusts, individuals and charities. Outside of work and parenting, his interests include rugby, cooking and wine pairing, socialising and reading. Pre CoVID travel restrictions, he used to enjoy

travelling and scuba diving.

At our Full Governing Board meeting in March, we re-elected Alison Palmer to the Board for a further 4-year term. Alison is Chair of the Staffing and Pupils Committee and is our subject link for Religious Education (RE) and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). She is also our connection to the School Council and Eco Council. We are delighted she has agreed to stay!

### Fundraising update

This year the governors have been looking at grants and fundraising opportunities and we are delighted to announce that the school was awarded a music grant of £500 from the Universal Music UK Sound Foundation. This has enabled the school to provide all of Year 1 and 2 with a recorder, for class lessons, and to buy 12 new ukuleles so that there are now enough for all of the children in Year 2 to each have one. Many thanks to our Chair of Governors, Lucas, for submitting the application.

A big thank you also goes to the The Friends of The Gattons School (FoGS) who have donated £7,000 to the school for coach trips, resources and reading books. We really appreciate the time and effort that FoGS put into their fundraising activities and would like to thank everyone who has donated.

### Positive visits from the West Sussex Link Advisors

We have also been involved with two visits from West Sussex Advisors this term to review two areas that were raised as areas for improvement following the Ofsted visit in September. The first focused on our curriculum, including our provision for Music and Art which was extremely positive. They spoke to our subject leaders as well as the children and were particularly impressed with the technical vocabulary the children were using in music.

Our second visit focused on behaviour across the school. Again, the local authority commented on the calm, positive learning environment that they saw and that the behaviour across the school was good. They were impressed with the work the Early Years Team have done to embed the new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and the focus the school has on how it progresses into Key Stage 1.

We would like to thank all the staff and curriculum leaders for the huge amount of work they have done over the last two terms in developing the curriculum and behaviour across the school.

### What else have we been involved in this term?

- A key part of our role is monitoring and so we have continued to keep in touch with subject leaders to review progress on the plans they shared with us in the Autumn term.
- We have completed a skills audit to review the skills and expertise within the Governing Board. The results of this audit will be used to plan our training and development activities.
- We have been working with the Senior Leadership Team on the development of the School Improvement Plan and a three-year strategic plan.
- We have also been reviewing a number of the schools' policies to ensure that they are up to date. All of our policies can be found on the [Gattons website](#).

We would like you wish you all a restful Easter break and we look forward to seeing everyone in the Summer Term.

From all the Governors at The Gattons.

Lucas (Chair), Emma (Vice-Chair), Alison, Anthony, David, Derek, Ellie, Julie V, Julie S, Paula, Rosie and Sarah.