

# Governors' Newsletter –

## Message from the Governors

There has been quite a big change of Personnel on the governing body over recent months. We have said goodbye and thank you to Community governor Daisy Greenaway; LEA governor Liz Thomson ;parent governors Bethan Brookes, Ishmail Pirbhai and Poonham Singh and staff governor Jo Stonehouse. We are pleased tha Alistair Dent is staying on for a little while as associate governor. We've welcomed on board, Damien Holt (LEA), Joe Walker, Allen Abromson, Angela Donnelly (parent) and Lloyd William Jones (staff). Everybody has had to hit the ground running and all new governors now have a few meeting under their belt. After the success of the recent OFSTED inspection we not resting on our laurels, the school is working on improving results and taking measures suggested in the regular School Improvement Plan visits and reports. Since a governors term is generally four years, there will soon be another election for parent governor. There is a section below about what governors duties are. If any parents are interested, look out for the notice of the elections coming shortly. Do let us know of any comments or concerns you may have, we are always looking for feedback. [chair@millfields.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:chair@millfields.hackney.sch.uk). With very best wishes to all parents, carers, pupils and staff for the Easter break.

## Profile on Damien Holt. LEA Governor

### **How and why did you become a Governor?**

I initially joined through an initiative at work to connect business with the local community, I've been a governor at Morningside, and the Learning Trust asked if would be interested in representing them here in Millfields, Having worked with Jane for over a year I jumped at the chance. I'm from a state school background myself and had initially wanted to work in school, I trained as a teacher around 20 years ago, and then was offered a place on a graduate traineeship at M&S, so that career was sidelined, and I've worked in HR ever since. So when the opportunity arose to support a school it seemed like a nice link back to my original thoughts.

### **What are your roles?**

I am the link governor for health and safety, for discipline and for attendance, which link together sensibly but aren't perhaps the most positive aspect of what the governors remit might be, but all are essential that we get right.

### **What are the best and worst things about what you do as Governor?**

The best thing is knowing that the school is making a real difference to the life of our community, on the whole the school has a great reputation and a strong leader in Jane. The hardest bit is trying to think of ways to keep ahead of the different requirements being asked of the school and learning the lingo has been a challenge.

### **What impression do you get of Millfields as a school?**

Having visited the school several times now, the energy and engagement of the pupils is fantastic. The teachers clearly love what they are doing. Mostly everyone has been polite and encouraging to me as a new governor. I look forward to continuing supporting the school to the best of my abilities.

## What do Governors do exactly?

### We attend meetings each term.

- The **Curriculum and Well Being Committee** looks at data about learning, achievement and progression etc and asks for presentations from subject leaders and link governors.
- The **Finance and Planning Committee** looks at the money that has been and will be spent as well as issues of health and safety etc.
- The **Full Governor Body Committee** scrutinises the data from both sub-committees as well as the head teachers report.

### We serve as link governors.

Each link governor is closely allied to a subject (i.e. Literacy) or other area (i.e. Safeguarding). The link governor makes visits to the school to liaise and be kept up to date with the member of staff responsible for that area and so is able to feed back to the governors when necessary. (See below for list of Link Governors)

### We sit on panels.

Such as disciplinary panels, interview panels, complaint panels etc.

Governors are drawn from the community, from the staff, from the L.E.A, and from parents but they are not a conduit for the concerns of the group they come from, rather a means to get balanced range of people on the governing body. Governors are not involved in the day to day running of school. Usually if a parent comes to us with an issue or concern we point them to the schools own procedures for dealing with such things (speaking to the teacher/head etc.). Governors would only become involved in the rare occasions when something has escalated through a complaint or disciplinary procedure.

## [Link Governors](#)

**Sandy Stanton** *Inclusion -Special Educational Needs*

*Children in Care, Child Protection and Safeguarding*

**Damian Holt** *Health and Safety  
Attendance  
Behaviour*

**Gordon Murray** *Literacy  
Religious Education*

**Angela Donnelly** *Maths  
PHSCE and SRE / Healthy Schools*

**Allen Abramson** *Science*

**Magnus McGrandle** *ICT*

*Music*

*History*

*Geography*

*Partnerships –HTSA*

**Lisa Venables** *Art and Design*

*Design Technology*

**Joe Walker** *Children Centre*

*Physical Education*

**Chris Belgrave** *Extended Schools*

## **From the sub committees**

### **Curriculum and Well Being Committee**

We have been discussing the new changes that are about to come in to the content and timing of subject delivery and assessments with the implementation of the new National Curriculum. We are pleased that the school seems well prepared and is putting systems in place so that the turnaround (especially in assessment) will not be too abrupt. The Millfield Attainment Group scrutinises the data for pupils progress and attainment and reports back to the committee. The management and teaching staff continue to demonstrate their determination to achieve the best results and to keep and maintain an inclusive school.

Gordon Murray Chair.

### **Finance, Human Resources and Premises Committee**

This year has been particularly challenging, as some of the school's funding was "clawed back" after the budget was agreed. Although the premises expansion work was all separately funded, it's generated extra costs which have had to be found out of the main budget. This means that we look like ending up with a deficit this year, and the challenge now is to make sure this is as small as possible. The main priority is to make sure the budget is there for delivering the curriculum, meaning that a very large proportion of the budget (over 75%) is allocated to teaching and support staff and the materials they need to do the job. If we can make sure the teaching isn't affected by budget constraints even when times are tough, we feel we're doing our job as Governors.

Alistair Dent Chair