



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS JANE BURNETT

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of a busy and productive Autumn term, it's a good opportunity to share with you some of the work governors have been doing in partnership with the school.

As ever the governors have spent the past two terms working closely with the school as a critical friend. The three committees, Education, Personnel and Finance meet regularly throughout the year. The annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) drives our work. Staff prepare papers for us to read prior to the meetings so that we can ask detailed questions about the work that is ongoing across the school. This enables us to monitor if the school is on target to achieve the plans it set for itself in the SIP. An example of one target that we are monitoring via meetings, discussions with staff and students, presentations and data is to do with the curriculum.

The stated target in the SIP is to *'Improve the curriculum through the development of creativity across and within the curriculum and delivery and through the growth and coordination of the Super Curriculum.'*

Governors came into school for a full day on 18 October. The morning's focus was on governor monitoring and were pleased to explore the impact of the SIP targets, as well as Behaviour, Careers and much more with staff and students across the school.

In the afternoon governors met with staff for a discussion of the future mission and vision for the school. Many ideas were explored. Since then, some parents met with senior staff at the Parent Forum to do much the same exercise and SLT will also meet with students to hear their views. Governors will discuss the outcomes in February at their board meeting whereupon we will bring the draft ideas to all stakeholders at some point in the new year. The exercise is particularly pertinent as we move towards the 400-year anniversary of the school in 2030.

We welcomed several new governors this term. Two new teaching staff governors, Janette Makin and Matt Dickenson who join as the Support and Teaching Staff representatives and Huw Gronow who leads on Safeguarding. Sadly, we lost one of our colleagues, Caroline Drummond, as she stood down to take on a community role in her local town.

The highlight of the last two terms seems to be the mobile free zone now in place across the school. Everyone is delighted to see students talking to each other at break and lunch instead of head down studying social media. I know that there were many initial concerns about the introduction of the mobile phone ban. In the light of the success of the policy, governors would like to thank staff and families for being so supportive of this change and making it happen for the benefit of all our young people in school.



The work in the library over the summer is great, I am sure that your youngsters have told you all about the renovations, computer upgrade and a new carpet! The room is now a much better space to work in.

We continue to enjoy the Friday lunches introduced two years ago to meet students once a term. This term we have met with Year 7 students to hear how they have settled and into the secondary school routine during their first term as part of the NKS family. We were pleased to hear them express there were teachers they were comfortable to speak with if they had any concerns. We also met with Sixth Formers and were able to explore the study facilities and support as well as navigating relationships between boys and girls as they transition from an all-boys main school to the mixed Sixth Form. My governor colleagues find these lunches very useful enabling us to gain more detailed insight into NKS from a student's perspective.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas. The governors look forward to 2025 and continuing to work hard to achieve the very best for NKS in partnership with the staff.

Jane Burnett

Merry Christmas!