



## MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS JANE BURNETT

Dear all,

I must begin with the news that you will have received that **Mr Greene** is retiring from Headship. Mr Greene has been an exceptional Headteacher leading all of us through some very tough times, most notable being Covid and some really good times, as in the successful Ofsted and the opening of the DLC. In due course the school community will be able to show their thanks and celebrate his tenure when Mr Greene retires from Headship at the end of December 2026. In the meantime, there is still work to be done, so onwards and upwards...

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. One notable change this year is that the board has a Chair of Governors designate, **Marianne Highwood**, who will take over from me in July 2026 when I retire from the board. By shadowing me for a year it means that Marianne will hit the ground running in July.

As ever, Governors have spent the past two terms working closely with the school as a critical friend. Our three committees—Education, Human Resources and Finance—meet regularly throughout the year, with the School Improvement Plan (SIP) driving our work. Staff prepare papers ahead of meetings so we can ask detailed questions and monitor whether the school is on track to achieve its SIP targets.

This year we are focusing on three key areas:

1. **Aspiration** – improving academic outcomes at higher grades (building on Sixth Form focus and extending to GCSE).
2. **Culture** – ‘This is a school for people like me’—promoting positive attitudes and challenging sexism, racism, LGBTQ+ discrimination and ableism. We aim to reinforce kindness and pride, complementing our respectful culture and influencing unstructured times.
3. **Creativity** – ensuring creative opportunities are central to the NKS experience—within the curriculum, across all subjects, and through extra- and cross-curricular activities.

Governors came into school for a full day on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We were pleased to explore the impact of these SIP targets and much more with staff and students across the school. It was a really productive morning enabling governors to really see the school in day-to-day action.

We welcomed three new governors this term. **Monna Hussain** and **Ivana Scott** were elected as parent Governors and **Anna Lawrence** joined us as a community governor.

The new catering company have been bedding in, with a variety of choice and also different serving points around the school. This gives the students greater choice and the sixth form a separate space.

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 6<sup>th</sup> formers and were able to



## NKS GOVERNORS' UPDATE Christmas 2025

explore the study facilities and support as well as navigating relationships between boys and girls as they transition from the main school to the mixed 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2026 and continuing to work hard to achieve the very best for NKS in partnership with the staff.

Kind regards,

**Jane Burnett**

Chair of Governors

### GOVERNOR DAY

Marianne Highwood, Chair of Governors Designate

#### Governor Day: A Valuable Insight into School Life

**“School is a safe place in an increasingly unsafe world.”**

*(Student comment during Governor Day)*

This powerful sentiment set the tone for our first Governor Day of the year, held on **Friday 14 November**, when members of the Governing Body spent the day in school engaging with students and staff.

The day was a great success and provided a valuable opportunity to see the school in action. Governors observed lessons across the school, where students and staff were working together enthusiastically. We also spoke with students about their experiences of school and were delighted by the overwhelmingly positive feedback. Many students shared how much they enjoy their lessons and the wide range of extra-curricular activities available to them. Most importantly, the message we heard repeatedly was that **NKS is a safe place to learn and grow.**

One of the key aims of Governor Day was to immerse governors in the day-to-day life of the school. This was two-fold: firstly, to help governors better understand how the school operates in real time and how staff respond to daily challenges; and secondly, to raise the profile of governors and highlight the positive impact we can have on school success when we work together.

Towards the end of Lesson 3, we experienced an unexpected fire alarm. While governors were unsure where to muster, staff and students responded calmly and efficiently, knowing exactly where to go and what to do. The school operated exactly as planned, demonstrating excellent procedures and composure while the cause of the alarm was swiftly investigated. We are pleased to say that we now know where governors should muster in the future.



**NKS GOVERNORS' UPDATE**  
**Christmas 2025**

The warm welcome we received from both staff and students made us feel increasingly recognised and part of the wider school community. We had open and honest conversations and witnessed first-hand the shared commitment to continually improving the experience and wellbeing of everyone at NKS.

We would like to thank the entire school community for their hospitality and for the opportunity to spend such a valuable day in school. We look forward to returning in the new year and continuing our collaboration to ensure NKS remains a welcoming, safe and thriving place for all.

**NEW GOVERNOR**

**MONNA HUSSAIN, PARENT GOVERNOR, FINANCE AND AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

Monna is passionate about education and committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environment. She believes schools are the foundation of a child's development and play a crucial role in shaping their future and is enthusiastic about contributing to Knatchbull's continued success and supporting its efforts to achieve excellence for all students and families.

Professionally, she is the Head of Financial Management and Business Partnering at the Northern Ireland Office. Her background includes over eight years in the Civil Service—starting in the Department for Education (DfE), later the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and then at the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)—as well as experience in corporate and global banking. This has given her a strong understanding of public sector finance, education policy, and the challenges schools face.

Her time working at IICSA reinforced my deep commitment to safeguarding. It highlighted how vital it is that schools and institutions protect and support children, and she is determined to ensure every child is given the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or individual needs.

Monna is the parent of a student in year 8 and currently serves as a Parent Governor and Chair of the Resources Committee at her other child's primary school.



**NEW GOVERNOR**

**ANNA LAWRENCE, COMMUNITY GOVERNOR, EDUCATION COMMITTEE**



Anna is a highly experienced education professional whose career in teaching and senior leadership spans over 30 years, with a sustained commitment to raising academic standards in secondary education. She has held senior posts, including Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher.

Anna holds a Master of Arts in Education, specialising in school leadership. This academic grounding, combined with extensive professional experience, has shaped her evidence-informed approach to school improvement and strategic governance.

She has led ambitious whole-school strategies to raise attainment, strengthen curriculum delivery, and enhance teaching quality across departments. Her leadership has consistently delivered strong student



**NKS GOVERNORS' UPDATE**  
**Christmas 2025**

outcomes, even in complex and challenging contexts. Anna's skills have been applied in both maintained and trust schools. She has also contributed to a range of fora, including the School Improvement Team at a Trust level, Independent Review Panels, and the local inter-school Inclusion Panel.

Anna served as an Ofsted Inspector, gaining valuable insight into evaluation frameworks and sharpening her ability to offer constructive challenge and support to senior leadership teams. Her current role as an external educational adviser for a neighbouring local authority provides insight into diverse school contexts and opportunities to support schools in an evolving educational landscape.

In governance, Anna brings over 20 years of experience, including roles as Chair of a Local Governing Body and member of an Interim Executive Board.

Outside her professional work, Anna enjoys travelling across Northern and Central Europe, with a strong interest in cultural heritage. She is also a keen sewist, enjoying modern textiles and quilting.

**IVANA SCOTT, PARENT GOVERNOR, HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Ivana brings 10 years of HR experience and critical thinking skills as a senior leader in the technology sector to the Board of Governors. She has supported leadership teams in developing people strategies, building and fostering inclusive cultures, and navigating complex organisational change.

Ivana values the school's dedication to providing an education that goes beyond academic success and supports the mission to equip young people not just with qualifications, but also with the confidence, curiosity, and resilience to thrive.



Ivana brings enthusiasm, perspective, and a commitment to ensuring NKS continues to provide an outstanding, well-rounded education for all.

If you'd like to know about the governing body you can find out more about us on the school website: [NKS Governance](#)

If you would like to contact the Governing Board or find out more about what we do, you are very welcome to do so via our Governance professional, Lena Seed [lseed@nks.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lseed@nks.kent.sch.uk)

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**