



## Governor Newsletter to parents and carers

### Autumn Term 2018

Welcome to our latest newsletter and a special welcome to those parents and carers reading for the very first time. We hope you find this information useful in keeping you up-to date with the Governing Body's work.

The full governing body held its AGM in September and then met again in November. This term the following policies have been reviewed and updated – Child Protection, Safeguarding, Admission, Severe weather or utility failure, Redundancy, Health and Safety and the Curriculum Statement. The Council hold a series of training events and those attended by Governors include Induction, Governor Briefing and Using Data for School Improvement.

The School's Self Evaluation Report has been discussed and the School Development Plan priorities for the year have been set as follows:

**Priority 1: To improve the percentage of KS2 pupils reaching Level 5 in Science**

**Priority 2: To develop support for pupils with emotional and behaviour issues.**

**Priority 3: Provide quality provision to develop reading skills in Foundation Phase and KS2 as part of a cluster project.**

**Priority 4: Develop further awareness of ethical citizenship in the wider world.**

**Priority 5: Further develop middle leadership.**

#### Head Teacher Performance Management & Pay Review Panel

Like all members of staff at Crossgates, Mrs Williams has an annual Performance Management Review to assess her performance against previously set targets and to discuss how the school is progressing. The panel this year comprised Claire Lewis and Brian Jardine. Once the review of the past year is complete and salary increment (if any) agreed then further discussions take place to agree new targets to be set for the coming year. The LA challenge advisor supports the target setting process.

During the visit by our challenge advisor the school's indicative school categorisation was graded as Yellow (Good) with capacity to improve Grade B. Yellow is an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve. As a school we are working towards and already doing many of the areas to become a 'green' school. The final category will be confirmed and published in January.

#### Finance & Staffing Committee

Funding is being cut to the bare bones and the school's current budget is running with a predicted overspend of £45,000 and making a huge dent into reserves. On pupil counting day - the day on which our 2019/20 budget is set we had 154 pupils on roll, this compares favourably to the 144 last year. We await the outcome and impact of the Fair Funding Formula Review undertaken by the Council which is due to be implemented in April 2019.

Importantly, governors urge all parents/carers receiving state benefits to find out if you can register your child for Free School Meals. The way families are assessed for free school meals eligibility will be changed under Welsh Government plans from January 2019, so if you are unsure, just ask the Head Teacher. It's kept

confidential and your child doesn't have to eat the free meal. BUT for each child registered for Free School Meals the school receives a special grant from the Welsh Government of £1,150 a year. This is a considerable sum, please help us to get it for the school.

### Standards and Curriculum

Brain Jardine joined the staff learning team to undertake a self-evaluation on science throughout the school. The end report has been discussed along with school data (the annual report to parents includes more on this) and target setting for the forthcoming year. The committee have also met to monitor KS2 maths and topic work by undertaking a book scrutiny and talking to learners.

### Changes to the Governing Body

At our recent meeting we agreed the nomination of Mr Chris Owen as parent governor. Chris has kindly provided the following supporting statement:

#### Mr Chris Owen (Parent Governor)

I have a real passion for education as it the foundation of a healthy culture and our future prosperity. I am very happy for our two youngest (Evie and Bertie Owen) to be at Crossgates School and I'd love to be more involved in helping the school to excel. I'd be campaigning for a more holistic approach to education, with more outdoor time, more scope for children to follow their unique passions. I'd also encourage more social opportunities for parents and pupils, forging stronger connections within the local community, attracting more energy to contribute to the schools success.

The Governing Body currently has no vacancies and comprises:

Local Authority Governor	John Powell	Teacher Governor	Verity Pritchard
Local Authority Governor	Kathryn Griffiths	Minor Authority Governor	Clare Haslam
Local Authority Governor	Claire Lewis (chair)	Community Governor	Alf Jackaman
Parent Governor	Brian Jardine	Community Governor	Andrew Morgan
Parent Governor	Melanie Ross	Community Governor	Adam Morton
Parent Governor	Rebecca Ingram	Staff Governor	Caroline Stokes
Parent Governor	Chris Owen	Head Teacher	Lisa Williams

Finally, one of the governing body's key roles is to set the school's vision and following consultation with the School Council, the School's mission statement has been amended slightly to:

***"Crossgates School values its pupils and teaches them to value themselves and each other;  
Value our School; Value the World"***

May we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Claire Lewis, Chair of Governors On behalf of the Governing Body