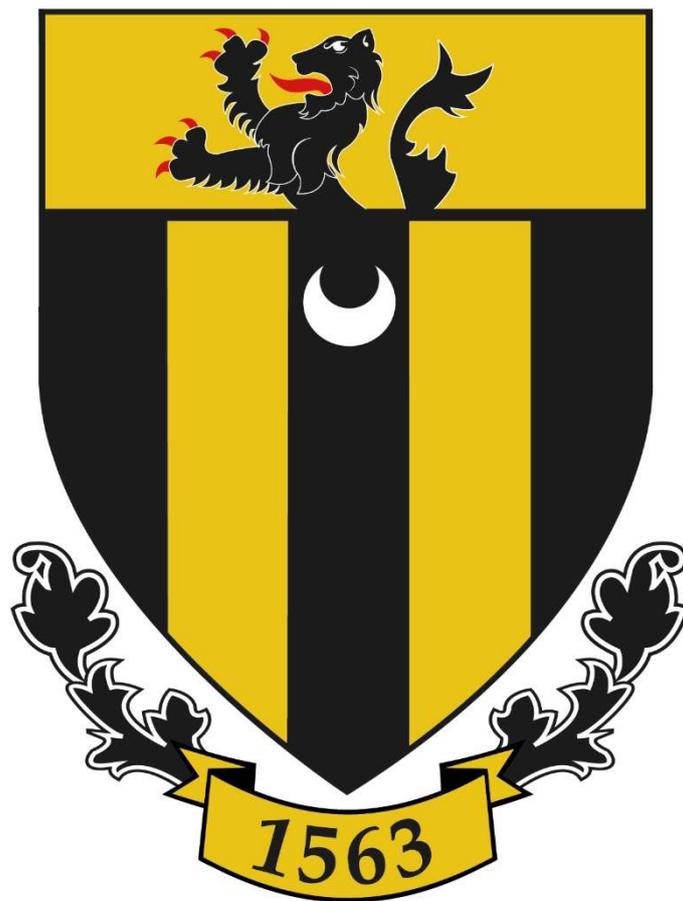


Sir Roger Manwood's School



Governing Body Newsletter
March 2018

With new parent governors having just been elected to the Governing Body (GB), we felt this would be a good time to write direct to you, the parents and carers of the pupils of the school, to give with more information about who we are and what we do as governors of Sir Roger Manwood's School.

We currently have 19 governors, who are Foundation governors, community governors, parent and staff governors (a full list of governors follows at the end of this letter), and Mr Hunter is an ex officio member who attends all our meetings. We meet as the full GB 5 times a year, however, much of the day-to-day business is done within the GB committees which meet between 3 to 6 times during the school year. Committees are able to focus on particular areas – Curriculum, Finance & Premises, Pay & Personnel, and Boarding. They report back to the full GB, which thus gets an overview of every aspect of the school.

The GB is principally tasked with providing strategic leadership, holding the school Leadership team (SLT) to account for the educational performance of the pupils and the performance management of staff, and overseeing the financial performance to ensure that money is well spent. Our role is therefore concerned with asking challenging questions, but also support.

The current Chair of Governors is Ros Daniels, and the Vice-Chair is Rebecca Jackson, and both have children in school. As a result of the recent parent elections we now have a GB with several new members and we look forward to benefitting from their interest and enthusiasm.

So what does our work involve? We endeavour to develop a strong relationship with the school by making visits to the school and attending meetings, which often require considerable reading ahead in preparation. We may scrutinise data relating to exam results, make decisions regarding finance, review school policies and ask questions of the SLT about the culture and ethos of the school. We may also attend training sessions (either face to face or online) and there are regular updates provided through our membership of the National Governors' Association to help keep us aware of new regulations, Ofsted requirements, and of governance practice outside the world of SRMS.

The financial climate remains extremely challenging for schools, and this obviously makes our job harder, especially when external financial information about future income and increased costs often reaches schools with unhelpful timing. As governors we recognise that we are fortunate to have a dedicated staff who are generous with their time and support for students both academically and in extra-curricular opportunities.

As well as ensuring that the school delivers a broad and balanced curriculum, the GB recognises the importance of pastoral care and safe-guarding at the school. The GB fully supports the PSHE programme in school, which seeks to inform and educate students to help them deal with issues they may face now or in the future. Some of the governors accompanied a number of school staff in attending a talk recently on the activities of gangs in East Kent, and how they target vulnerable young people.

Please be aware that if you would like more information about governance or if you have any other comments, such as about what you might like to see in any future newsletter, you can contact the GB at info@srms.kent.sch.uk.

Thank you for your support of the school.

The current GB is made up of the following governors:-

Community - Ros Daniels and Andrew Rush.

Co-opted - Tony Mills, Tony Nagle and Peter Wilson.

Foundation - Christine Everard, Lindsay Gorringe, Tony Kilbee, Mark Roberts and Joanna Rosso.

Parent - Roger Anstis, Kirsty Bell, Rhod Cruwys, Gunda Hoffman, Dawn Hunter-Wardle, Rebecca Jackson, and Joanne Maine.

Staff - David Anderson and Joanna Poole.