



Governor Spotlight July 2019

End of term update

As we near the end of another busy year at Sutton Benger School I want to thank you all for your support and update you about some changes to the Governing Body.

We have moved away from having a multiple-committee structure and now have full governing body meetings more often instead to ensure all governors have a better oversight of all aspects of the school. Each governor has been linked to the school's new middle leadership subject teams which will support governor monitoring. We have commissioned an external review of governance which will take place in October.

We have successfully recruited several new governors and will need to recruit further in the Autumn term. If you are interested in supporting the school as a governor, please let us know.

Three long serving governors: Katie Brown, Daisy Broomfield and I are stepping down this term. Significant increases in my work commitments this year and next year have led to the difficult decision to step down from the governing body, but I am delighted that a new four-pronged leadership structure has been secured for September.

James Hirst will continue as co-chair and will be joined by new governor Abi Aspin. Abi has been a governor before and has experience of supporting the leadership in her previous school to move back to Ofsted 'Good'. A new co-vice chair arrangement will see experienced governors Mel Knight and Joan Cocker supporting James and Abi. They will be ably supported by Jodie Anstee, Catherine Donovan, Natasha Carter and Caroline McCartney, as well as staff governors Mrs Wilson, Mrs Pitman-Jones and Mr Maddison.

Thank you so much to all the governors who have given so freely and generously of their time to support the children and staff at the school - your contribution, energy and insight has been instrumental and very much appreciated.

We have experienced significant challenges this year, including changes in senior leadership, Ofsted and SIAMs, the academy conversion process, and the loss of our wonderful previous co-chair, Tom Whittingham.

I want to say a huge thank you to all the staff at Sutton Benger for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the children, and their incredible resilience, particularly in this context. The family feel, ethos and atmosphere at the school and the whole team's commitment to always doing the best for the children has remained, as always, the first priority.

Although the SATs results have not yet been validated, initial analysis suggests that pupil attainment at Sutton Benger has improved for the fourth year running and now significantly exceeds national averages.

Have a wonderful summer break - thank you for your support this year, it is hugely appreciated. I will miss serving the school as a governor at Sutton Benger, but I am looking forward to seeing a bit more of my children in the evening!

Very best wishes,

James Passmore



Academy Conversion

As you will have seen the main focus of our last FGB meeting recently was to discuss our possible conversion to an academy. We were joined at the meeting by Jez Piper, DBAT's CEO who was on hand to answer any last questions we had.

After a long discussion the governors unanimously decided that it was in the best interests for Sutton Benger school to convert. We are aiming for a 1 October 2019 conversion date.

We need you! Come join us...

We are on the lookout for more Governors and now more than ever we'd welcome conversations with interested parents and/or members of the community.

If you or anyone you know is interested and would like to help us on our journey please contact James Hirst jhirst@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk