



A new school term and a new look governing board

In addition to our longstanding governors we now have two new appointed governors and two new parent governors following the election earlier in the term. The aim is to widen and diversify the skill set within the governing board so that we can continue to give the school the best possible support.

As the in-coming Chair of Governors I would like to thank Professor Mike Fleming for all his hard work as the outgoing Chair. Mike has been a member of the governing board for twenty seven years. He has given massive support and loyalty to the school, guiding it through some difficult times and supporting several headteachers. In meetings his thoughtful comments, challenging questions and his good humour will be missed. I am pleased that he intends to retain his link with FSD by remaining on the Board of Trustees.

Angela Darnell

New Chair of Governors

I am delighted to be taking up the role of Chair of Governors. Some parents reading this may remember me and, if you were a student here between 1975 and 1990, I may have taught you. I retired from my role as Headteacher at Egglecliffe School in Stockton on Tees two years ago and here I am back at Fram. In many



ways it feels as if I have never been away!! The ethos of the school remains as strong as ever and there is a tangible energy amongst the staff to ensure that the school continues to improve.

Regular up-dates

I want everybody associated with the school to know about the work of the Governing Board. Strong governance is more important than ever in the eyes of both Ofsted and the DFE. Updates will be posted to give parents a feel for the progress we are making.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, via Sarah.Dawson@Fram.durham.sch.uk, if you have any comments or would like to make a contribution towards the work of the governors at FSD.

Angela Darnell – Chair of Governors

New Parent Governors

Thanks to all the parents who expressed an interest in joining the governing board. We were pleased to see so much interest in the role. Following the recent ballot our new parent governors are:

Helen Coppock

Helen has worked for the NHS for 24 years in a variety of organisations in Essex, London and the North East. She is currently working as a ward manager in an acute medical ward.

Deborah Halliwell

Deborah is a secretary in a local primary school and has been a primary school governor for ten years. She has also been a volunteer Beaver Scout Leader for twelve years.

Newly appointed governors

Denis Martin is professor of rehabilitation in the School of Health and Social Care at Teesside University.

Darren Grocke is a Reader in Earth Sciences at Durham University.

Both work in Higher Education and are keen to support the school in the Science and STEM areas.

Many thanks to our longstanding governors

The following governors continue to give the school tremendous support and loyalty:

Derek Hall - Chair of the Excel Academy Trust Board. A parent governor since 2007.

Amanda Hopgood - Chair of both the Performance working group and the Trust Board Audit Committee. Vice Chair of the Excel Academy Trust Board. A governor since 2009.

Joanne Thorns - Vice Chair of the governing board and Chair of the Pastoral working group. A governor since 2006.

Karenza Passmore - A governor since 2009 and Chair of the Community working group.

Jen Straughan Hawley - joined the governing board eight years ago. Her work as a local government facilities management officer includes working with community groups and civic teams.

Leeanne Mersh-Roberts - has just completed her term as Staff governor. She is Deputy Director of Social Science and an SLE (Specialist Leader in Education).