

# Easthampstead Park Community School

## Governing Board Newsletter 2021

### “Ambition and Challenge for all”



Issue 1 - 2021

#### Welcome

Welcome to our first Governing Board newsletter. We are sharing the governors' activities to keep our parents and community updated about our activities in school.

#### Chair of Governor's message

As the academic year ends, the Governing Body thanks the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, all teaching and non-teaching staff, site team, finance and admin staff at the school for their unwavering dedication and support during and beyond the circumstances we found ourselves in this year. All the initiatives implemented in school, from Bubbles to distance learning, have been well organised.

We thank the parents, carers and students for their support and all our stakeholders in the community for their resilience and commitment to the school. Thank you, stay safe and enjoy a well-deserved rest over the summer holidays. Rene Rastall.

#### Governing Board Changes

The Governing Board says goodbye to **Graham Ferguson**. We thank him for his hard work and commitment. He has made an invaluable contribution to the school community. We hope his time as governor was rewarding.



We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

We welcome **Juliet Blakemore** to the Governing Board. Juliet had the following to say after her first few weeks, 'Having recently been appointed as a co-opted independent school governor at EPCS, I have really appreciated the high level of support and welcome offered by BFC, the Chair and fellow governors and the school management. They have all been a great help in taking on this new role and I am looking forward to making a positive contribution to the school.'

#### Governing Board Recruitment

We are currently appointing 2 Parent Governors and will keep you updated on their appointment. A parent governor is anyone who has: an interest in the

performance of the school; a desire to contribute to and represent the community; an open and enquiring mind; the ability to look at issues objectively; the confidence to ask questions and join in debate; a willingness to listen and make informed judgements; the ability to work well with others; time to spare and a child or children currently attending the school. Watch this space for our parent governor announcement soon!

#### Governing Board Link Visits

Our Governors have been busy this academic year with several Virtual and Covid-19 compliant controlled face to face visits with the school community.

LINK	Date	Governor
SEN	12.07.2021	Rene Rastall
CrissCross	06.07.2021	Mary Temperton
Media Library	25.06.2021	Jan Sumner
Safeguarding	26.02.2021	Mary Temperton
SEN	18.02.2021	Rene Rastall
Modern Foreign Languages	10.02.2021 25.02.2021	Marc Mosthav
Mental Health	28.01.2021	Mark Glanville
English	11.12.2020	Jan Sumner
Science	04.12.2020	Mark Glanville
Sixth Form	02.12.2020	Billie King
Pupil Premium	30.11.2020	Jan Sumner
Careers	27.11.2020	Mary Temperton
Performing Arts	25.11.2020	Mark Hooper
Maths	18.11.2020	Rene Rastall
SEN	15.11.2020	Rene Rastall
Attendance	06.11.2020	Jan Sumner
Science	04.11.2020	Mark Glanville
Sixth Form	23.10.2020	Jan Sumner
Safeguarding	01.10.2020	Mary Temperton

Here are some insights into our visits:

#### CrissCross2021 06.07.2021 Governor: Mary Temperton

I visited to share CrissCross Day. I shared the Army presentation with year 10 who then left to do confidence-building activities with Army personnel on the school field.



I watched a basketball game with year 9 and Bodger - a cross between pétanque and bowls - with other year 9 students, enjoying the quiet atmosphere in the gym. Mary Temperton.

#### Library Visit 26.05.2021 Governor Jan Sumner

I had the opportunity to visit school to sign agreed Student Support minutes this morning. There was also the opportunity to visit the Library and to view new displays in department corridors.



The displays are vibrant and informative, they are pertinent to the various departments. There are also a number of information boards reminding students of the school's motto 'Respect and Pride' and EPCS Character. The result is a vast improvement to the school environment both visually and educationally.

The Librarian should be commended for the improvements that have been implemented. The development of a breakfast club area with soft furnishings, audio books and some support from Waitrose is a great asset. I also saw a number of classes during the visit, students were engaged and on task.

I urge all my fellow governors if they have the opportunity to go and see our school in action and catch up what is happening on the ground. Jan Sumner.

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#### Meet our Governors

<p><b>Alison Evans, Staff Governor</b> I am a Staff Governor and teach IT, Creative iMedia and Business. I am also a tutor to a Year 10 group.</p>	
<p><b>Billie King, Co-opted Governor</b> I am a Co-opted Governor with a child coming in as Year 7 in September. I have been a governor at EPCS for around 10 years. I am linked to Sixth Form and Equality and Diversity</p>	
<p><b>Catherine Bodin, Co-opted Governor</b> I have been a Governor for EPCS for the last 18 months. I work as a senior leader within the higher education sector, and have a keen interest in student advocacy, equity and inclusion in education at all ages and levels. I thoroughly enjoy serving as a governor of EPCS and investing time into the local community.</p>	
<p><b>Chanel Picton, Co-opted Governor</b> I am a busy working mum to 3 students at E.P. All of whom will be going into exams next year. One is currently studying A-levels, and 2 in their final GCSE year. I wanted to have a positive impact on student life and hope to provide that.</p>	
<p><b>Jan Sumner, Co-opted Chair of Student Support</b> I have been a Co-opted Governor for 13 Years. I've been a member of the Finance and Steering Committees and I'm currently Chair of the Student Support Committee. When invited I have observed the School Council at work and spoken with the Sixth Form on their experience at EPCS.</p>	
<p><b>Juliet Blakemore, Co-opted Governor</b> I joined the Board of Governors earlier this year and look forward to using my experience in the business world to make a positive contribution to EPCS. I have two grown up sons and enjoy playing tennis, walking and helping out with the family.</p>	
<p><b>Marc Mosthav, Co-opted Governor</b> I am a father of two. One just completed her A levels and the other one still is enjoying a few years at EP. I am a computer geek and love cooking.</p>	
<p><b>Mark Hooper, Vice Chair of Governors</b> I am a co-opted Governor and former student at EPCS. I have a passion for performing arts and musical theatre and enjoy volunteering as a governor in order to give back to my community and to a school which gave me so much joy as a student.</p>	
<p><b>Mark Glanville, Co-opted Governor</b> Seven years ago, I became a Parent Governor at another school. Three years ago, I became a Co-opted Governor for EPCS. This is a great school with great teachers' that provides a varied curriculum with excellent pastoral support to all students and is a valued part of the community.</p>	

<p><b>Mary Temperton, Local Authority Governor and Chair of Curriculum</b> I taught at EP for 22 years and love the school. I am the Link Governor for Safeguarding and Careers. It is a huge privilege to serve on this Governing Body. I am also a local Bracknell Forest and Bracknell Town Councillor.</p>	
<p><b>Rene Rastall, Chair of Governors</b> I have been a governor since 2010, serving as Vice Chair and then as Chair. I am the mum of three boys, a keen gardener, music lover and a guitar playing voracious reader. Love word search and volunteer to make a difference.</p>	
<p><b>Rhona Franco, Clerk to the Governors</b> I have worked at EPCS since 2001, I have been Clerk since November 2019. I have two children, one a Chiropractor and the other is studying for an environmental science degree. I love gardening and listening to music.</p>	
<p><b>Liz Cook, Headteacher</b> As the Headteacher, I am also a member of the Governing Body, I attend meetings and update Governors throughout the year on both the strategic and operational running of the school. This year has been one touching base with Governors, as changes to national expectations in managing the COVID pandemic, through schools, has been essential.</p>	
<p><b>Claire O'Brien, Deputy Headteacher</b> I have worked at EP since 2001 starting as a Head of Year 11 and now the Deputy Headteacher, Raising Standards. I enjoy participating and watching sports in particular netball, football, cricket and rugby. I am proud of EP students, and it is always so nice to hear about the successes they achieve.</p>	
<p><b>Matt Hall, Deputy Headteacher</b> I lead on curriculum and teaching at EPCS. I am passionate about ensuring all of our students get an ambitious and high-quality experience at our school. I teach English and love reading, watching films and going to the theatre</p>	

#### The EPCS Governing Board

The Governing Board exists to provide strong strategic leadership to the school, ensuring accountability for its educational and financial performance. The Governing Board's vision is to support ambition and challenge for all. The Governing Board consists of 4 committees. Each committee has its own Terms of Reference, Membership, and Procedures as detailed in the Governing Body Information provided on the school website: <https://www.epschool.org/governing-body/>

Being a school Governor or Trustee is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment. You will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country: there are over a quarter of a million volunteers governing state-funded schools in England. You can register your interest to become a school governor. Send your email to the [clerktothegovernors@epschool.org](mailto:clerktothegovernors@epschool.org). We look forward to hearing from you! Stay safe and enjoy a well-deserved rest over the summer holidays.

The EPCS Governing Board.