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Welcome to the first edition of the Godmanchester Bridge Academy (GBA) Governors' newsletter. We plan to publish a newsletter each term to keep you up to date with news and events from the Governors.

We thought this edition would be a good opportunity to introduce ourselves, explain a little about how the Governing Body works and to let you know about some of the things we are up to. It is worth mentioning that this newsletter is in addition to the regular Bridge Academy School Newsletter, so we would encourage you to keep checking your emails for regular and important updates from the School office.

OUR BRAND-NEW SCHOOL

We are in a very exciting period, welcoming lots of new children and with part of the new School premises having recently opened. We had a tour in the opening week with a chance to see the children in their new classrooms. It was wonderful to see how happy they all looked and how great the new classrooms are. This has been a huge effort from everyone involved; we would like to especially thank Rod Warsap (Executive Headteacher) and his team for their commitment and hard work in getting the School to this important stage. There is still lots to do and we look forward to celebrating further once the new premises are finally complete and the keys are handed over.

How the Governing Body works

Our role is to provide strategic leadership and accountability for the School. We meet on a regular basis, at least once a term, where we discuss pupil performance and welfare; plans for the opening of the new School premises and any other relevant items.

A lot of our discussion has been about the new premises which include the site, pupils, staff and the various tenders for all our facilities. As I am sure you can imagine, there is much to consider when opening a new School and most importantly our focus remains on the welfare and education of the pupils.

Working closely with Godmanchester Community Academy

We are working hard to establish closer connections with our sister school at Godmanchester Community Academy (GCA). Both Chairs of Governors liaise closely and we have recently been joined by Pauline Lutman, who is the Lead Governor for Communications. Pauline will help us to ensure we send out timely and effective communications to you all and her experience over 7 years of being a Governor will help ensure we have a consistent approach across both schools.



GOVERNOR OBJECTIVES

We created a set of Governor Objectives last year, which included ensuring that the new School premises opened on time and to budget, with minimal impact on the pupils. Through everyone's hard work this has been delivered and at this stage the handover of the full site should be happening soon. At our next Governor meeting in November we shall be reviewing our School Development Plan and creating new Governor Objectives, which will form part of this Plan. We will update you further on our priorities and progress in our next newsletter.

Meet Paul Thornton



'I joined as the Chair of Governors in November 2016. I have a daughter, Evie, who attends GBA, so I am well connected to the School and have a good understanding of some of the great things being achieved by the staff and pupils. Part of my role as Chair also involves me sitting on the Board of Directors for the Godmanchester Community Education Trust, which means I attend regular meetings with other Directors to update them on the GBA and discuss the wider performance and development of the Trust. I regularly meet with the Chair of Governors for Godmanchester Community Academy, Roger Coxhead, to ensure we

I work for Anglian Water heading up their Recruitment and have many years' experience within different industries within Human Resources. I have previously worked for a large charity organisation, Cambridgeshire County Council and a number of privately owned Companies. I have just completed a Chair of Governors Leadership Development Programme, to enhance my knowledge and to equip me with plenty more skills to effectively deliver my role as Chair. I am really excited to be leading our School Governing Body over the exciting year ahead.'

Any questions?

We hope you have found this newsletter helpful and we would welcome feedback about what other topics you would like to know more about from your governing team.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, you can email us at

govchair@godmanchesterbridge.co.uk

MEET YOUR GOVERNORS

Our Governing body consists of:

1. Paul Thornton, Chair of Governors
2. Rod Warsap, Executive Head Teacher
3. Catherine Cope, Clerk
4. Nan Taplin, Special Education Needs (SEN) and Safeguarding Lead
5. Richard Burton, Finance Lead
6. Caroline Crowther-Light
7. Pauline Lutman, Communications Lead for both GBA and GCA.

In future editions of our newsletter, we will focus on individual Governors so you'll get the opportunity to put 'names to faces' and to see what each of us does, in support of our School.