



## Governor Focus

May 2019

### School Funding Issues

Throughout the education sector, it is felt that schools are still not being provided with adequate funding and resources to deliver the level of provision and support that our families and children require. You may be aware that many Head teachers have been campaigning, and have written to the Secretary of State regarding funding. This has been well represented in the national and local press.

In addition to the educational provision the school provides, we have become responsible for a wider level of pastoral and social care. Any reduction in funding means help and support for the school in these areas is affected also.

At Ardeley School we have managed our finances extremely carefully and meticulously for many years. Mrs Connolly meets regularly with the County finance team to review and prioritise spending. The good management by Mrs Connolly and the staff are key in preventing us from going into a deficit position. However, funding has been reducing and it remains extremely challenging, particularly over the next few years. Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8%.

We are currently in a safe financial position and in much better place than many local primary schools. But we all face challenges ahead. The Governors will always continue to be open and frank with you and very much appreciate the support of parents and the FAS.

### LCVAP Funding

As you are probably aware, Ardeley is a Voluntary Aided (VA) Church of England School. Being a VA school means that we receive our funding slightly differently from other state schools. There is a pot of money allocated for capital funding for voluntary aided schools. The school is able to bid for this money to help pay for large capital works needed within school. Allocation of money is agreed between Church of England Diocese, Roman Catholic Diocese and Local Authority. The Governors are responsible for providing 10% of the costs from the Governor's Fund, which is why we need your continued support at the Ardeley fete – our biggest fundraising event.

I am pleased to say that Mrs Connolly has successfully secured money for a new KS2 toilet refurbishment, replacement of older doors and windows, as well as a new computer server.

New doors and windows will be fitted to the KS1 classroom and cloakroom, the kitchen and back door and the main entrance to the school.

The new server will allow the computers in school to run more efficiently and for 'Windows' to carry out necessary updates.

The KS2 toilets will be replaced and the area freshened up!



### Governor Visits

Governors regularly visit school to observe lessons taking place or discuss subjects with teachers who are subject leaders.

Governors visit the school not as individuals, but on behalf of the board, with an agenda for the visit and they give feedback to the Board. Ardeley's Governing Board plan an annual programme of visits in advance, identifying themes for Governors to observe. Visits are an embedded part of the Board's work.

Recently Harvey Phipson carried out a visit in his role as IT Governor. Whilst there he reviewed behaviour and the learning environment, saw evidence of Ardeley school's Christian values and reviewed equipment within the context of IT.

Harvey was pleased with the behaviour that he observed and that children worked well together, sharing tasks and helping each other. He saw the Ardeley Values; Friendship, Wisdom and Respect and Reverence, displayed by pupils working together, learning and listening.

Harvey fed back to Governors that the investment being put into IT will be beneficial. The Board have agreed to this for 2019-2020 budget.... watch this space.

### Standards Monitoring

One of the key roles the Governors have is monitoring the standards achieved across the school. Mrs Connolly regularly presents information regarding this to the Governing Board and we also use the services of a Hertfordshire Partner (HIP), an experienced Head who works for Herts for Learning; they provide this service to help schools constantly develop and evaluate their successes.

In a recent visit our HIP graded all areas of the school as 'Good'. The HIP was very impressed with the progress that has been made in our target areas of reading, spelling and arithmetic skills, and the high standards our children are reaching.

### Get to Know Your Governor

Ben Twiston-Davies joined the Governing Board in March 2018 as a parent governor.

#### **Why did you want to become a governor?**

I am a great believer in the merits of education. I am a visiting lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire. I am also involved in a Haberdasher's company which is one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London. Its principal activity is running and helping to fund schools, with eight different schools in the independent and state sector.

#### **What is most important to you within education?**

The freedom that education gives you. The more you know, the more you can do.



### **What skills can you bring to the Governing board?**

I have two children that attend Ardeley School. I therefore have an insight into the issues with having young children.

I have degrees in English Literature and Law. I run my own business making sculptures. I previously worked as a journalist.

### Ardeley Volunteers

Ardeley School is extremely lucky to have a number of volunteers help within the school.

Many volunteers come in on a weekly basis to help in classrooms.

We are also fortunate to have a strong Parent Association(FAS) who raise a lot of money for pupils to enjoy activities. They help pay for the school pantomime trip, books, the KS1 canopy etc.

The Governing Board wish to express our thanks to all of those people who give up their time to help at Ardeley. Your help is much appreciated.

There are many ways you can help; if you would like to know more please speak with Mrs Walsh in the office or Mrs Connolly.

*“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is; What are you doing for others?” Martin Luther King Jr.*

### Goodbye and Thank You

Anelli Cleverly has left the Governing Board after four years. She is being succeeded by Aimee Lauezzari who has already attended meetings and taken on roles.

Gemma Burgess has also left the Governing Board as a parent governor. This position has now been filled by Aaron Minson. If you are ever keen to explore this role, please do speak to the office and they will put you in contact with Jackie Hayward, the Chair of Governors.

Our thanks to Anelli and Gemma for their contributions to the Governing Board.

**Mr Twiston-Davies**



**Mr Minson**

