



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs S.M. Wickens

Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP1 3BT

Tel: 01442 255734

Email: admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Thursday, 27th September 2018

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know that Mrs Wilkinson (or Alison to many of us), has decided to step down as Governor and Chair of Governors after 16 years of service. Alison has dedicated passion, time and other personal resources to the school over this period to ensure that the school has continued to develop and improve, always keeping the "Benefit to the Children" at the heart of every decision that the Governing Body and the School Leadership team has made. Under her guidance the school has made significant and continuous improvements in Standards of Education and Leadership to where we are today, as measured and validated by Ofsted, SIAMS and HM Inspectors for Education. Mrs Wilkinson has, I am glad to say offered her continuing support to the school and was appointed as an Associate Member to the Governing body in a consultative role.

At the 1st Full Governing Body meeting of the year, I had the great honour to be nominated and elected as Chair of Governors. Looking back now, it seems a long time ago when my daughter attended this school and I was first elected a Parent Governor in 2007. I have then continued to serve the school in various roles as Foundation Governor.

Looking forward I intend to continue to focus on the continuous improvement of what we do and the Education that we provide our children. There are many challenges ahead that this school will face including the Brexit effect on legislation and national pupil numbers, changes to a more demanding curriculum, changes of measurement of children's progress/attainment data as well as the effect of impending changes to the School's funding formula, which will see funding for most schools in Hertfordshire dropping over the next few years'

The role and responsibility of a School's Governing Body is set out in Legislation. In simple terms it is to provide strategic direction to the schools leadership team and to oversee the schools educational and financial performance. In reality, for a small school like ours, necessity makes the role far more hands on as the budget for non-teaching costs is incredibly limited.



It may be of interest to you to learn that the majority of Governors that we have on our Governing Body serve the School in this role, in recognition and gratitude for the Education (and more) that this school has previously provided for our own children. This is married with other Governors that bring specific skillsets to the Governing Body. This blend provides us with a strong Governing body to support and direct the school.

I would like to take the opportunity to be open with you as part of our school community and share from the outset, that I am in my 12th year as Governor and in my last year of this term of office. I have informed the Diocese and our Board of Governors that at the start of the next school year, I will be taking a break from a number of my extra-curricular roles and therefore a significant part of my role this year will be to ensure a smooth transition to continue to provide strategic leadership to this very special school. I look forward to working further with our skilled and dedicated staff, our committed FOGGs committee, you “our” Parents and especially the children.

I am available to be contacted via my email address agaudyn@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Andrzej Gaudyn
Chair of Governors

