

Much has been happening within the governing body this academic year with several changes taking place in both roles and structure.

Sue Le Page, after an incredible 13 years as Chair has stepped down from the role but fortunately remains as a Governor with her invaluable experience and expertise. Hugh Boulter (a former student) has taken over as Vice Chair and we also welcomed: Jaqui Edwards, Kerry Rawlings and Michael Clayton as new governors and Jacky Cope as Clerk.

Our committees have been rationalised and we now have: "Resources", "Pupils and Parents", "Teaching, Learning and Staff Development" and a "Governance Committee".

Tremendous work goes on in these committees; reviewing, challenging and looking for ways to improve and do things better whilst being mindful that we do have limited resources and need to maintain financial stability.

There are of course many challenges to be considered including further expansion and the potential grammar school re-introduction to Maidenhead.

Governors are extremely mindful of their responsibility to existing students and will ensure that any agreed expansion will not just be of benefit to future students. It is incredible to think that the school was built for 400 originally and there are now in excess of 1200. The Proposed investment to re-develop parts of the existing site into modern and "fit for purpose" facilities is a welcome opportunity.

Grammar school re-introduction to Maidenhead does remain a concern to us based on evidence from other counties where the system exists. Our school has built an excellent reputation which our community is extremely proud of and it is vital that we continue to improve results and retain the many great teachers we currently have.

Our strategy review in February started the ball rolling on developing and mapping out a strategy and vision for the next 5 to 10 years and with the various stakeholders involved should be available for public consumption by the end of the year. Further work will be underway shortly looking at the ethos and values of Furze Platt together with a new mission statement. This will include valuable input from; students, staff, parents and governors.

When combined with the previously agreed Site Development Blueprint Furze Platt Senior School will have a set of very clear messages about what the school community represents and how it will further develop and grow into a true 21st century centre of excellence.

Gavin Tisshaw, Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body