

# CHJS Governors Gazette

September 2017  
Issue 7



## From the Chair

A warm welcome to all students, parents and teachers, joining the school this year and all those returning back. I hope your summer was a enjoyable one!

After 5 years on the Governing Body, I am very excited to be taking on the role of Chair of Governors this year and hope I can fill the very large shoes left by Wendy Cooper in supporting the school and the senior leadership team.

I really believe Cunningham Hill Juniors School is an 'outstanding' school in so many ways. We are very fortunate to have experienced, dedicated and passionate Staff (across all functions), great facilities and resources, an abundance of extra circular opportunities, a healthy financial position and a genuine focus in knowing every child and bringing out their best.

The recent SATS results are just one measure of this. The school exceeded their expectations, and prior years progression in Reading, Maths and Writing in 2017. The exceptional results of the cohort is a testament to the hard work of the students and staff and something they (and we) should be very proud of. Ms Elbourne-Cloud will issue more details on the results in the coming weeks.

But now on to the new year. We getting our heads down to set our priorities and objectives for 2017/18 and continue to move forward. I look forward to updating you as we go!

**Rondi Allan**

## School Funding – CHJS Update

As you read in the press often, schools are under a lot of financial pressure in the school budget process. As a Governing Body, and specifically within the Resource committee, we very closely monitor the School Budget for both current year and the expected position in 5 years.

The school is doing an excellent job of managing this budget. We are very fortunate that we also have an income stream from the early Birds and Owls Afterschool Provision. Unlike some other schools, this is run by the school, rather than outsourced, so the funds get directly fed back into the school. This ensures we are currently in a healthy position, but nothing is guaranteed!

We also are in a fortunate position that our parents are financially supportive in many ways. This includes all the fantastic work done by the hardworking PTA, which raises much needed funds. Two other recent examples of this included a discount we received on a Maths program as a result of a parent working for the company and a grant for some new computers and craft supplies. A big thank you to all involved.

## Parent View

Parent View is an online Survey managed by Ofsted. It is an important tool for the school and we would like to encourage as many parents as possible to take 5 mins to complete it.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



## Being a Governor?

We are looking for new governors to support the school (and us). If you would like to learn a bit more or know someone who might be interested, please contact the Office and they can get you in touch with us. It is very rewarding to be part of an outstanding schools leadership team!

**Contact details:** Phone 01727 852911  
Email: [admin@cunninghamhill-jun.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cunninghamhill-jun.herts.sch.uk)

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## Governor Visit – Celebrating our TA's

I have been a governor at CHJS for 18 months and have now taken over the role as the SENCO Governor. In my recent school visit, I was particularly struck by the presence, skills and expertise of the teaching assistants (TAs). All the classes were supported by a TA and it was very evident that each TA was knowledgeable and well trained in their role both with the whole class and when interacting with individual children. It was also encouraging to learn that many of the TAs have been at the school for a number of years, have regular meetings with the SENCO lead, Mrs Pegg, to support each other and for training. Overall the TAs are a valuable asset to this school and are a reflection of the leadership and team work of the school.

By Dr Catherine Carver-Hill

## ABACUS / Success maker



The School has recently sourced a New Maths support tool called ABACUS. The program has been identified by the school as the best way to challenge targeted students (both those that need additional support and those that need more challenge). This is a perfect fit with our School Improvement Plan and the desire to improve Maths progress across the school as well as challenge the more able.

It is often really difficult for a teacher to identify a specific gap in learning that an individual child might have, and then tailor exercises to work on that gap. ABACAS is a tool that will motivate individuals by continuously providing 'just right' activities and reports for teachers to review the progress.

It is great to see the school continually assessing new approaches to learning and the governors supporting investments.

## E-Safety



School Leadership (both Staff and Governors) have an increasing amount of pressure on addressing the issue of e-Safety.

Research is quite clear that parents will look to the school and teachers in order to provide internet safety advice for the home, as well as ensuring the school is properly educating their children in internet safety risk. And then there is pressure from Ofsted which also has a significant emphasis on e-safety.

One of the responsibilities of the Governing body is to endorse the Policy, but more importantly to ask: Are parents engaged as part of the e-safety and acceptable use policy review process?

The school will continue to target parents with regular, suitable internet safety advice such as a newsletter, blog posts, and signposts to suitable resources on the school website.

Please support the initiatives the school has e.g. Open evenings, and discuss this at home with your children.

## New Transition Policy

The Infants and Juniors school have been working collaboratively on a new Transition Policy for the Year 2 to Year 3 transition. This is a big step for the children and parents and the schools have identified some enhancements to the current system to ensure the move is as seamless as possible.

This is an example of the school responding proactively to previous feedback from parents and teachers and how well the Infants and Juniors are aligned in their approaches.