

7 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

News from the Governors

I am writing on behalf of the Governors to share key information about your school and its governance. First and foremost, the Governors once again publicly praise the Headteacher, Joolz Scarlett, for her excellent leadership of the school during the circumstances that have and continue to challenge us.

The Governors are:

Parent Governors Tabitha Marsh Fiona ODonnell	Staff Governor Rachel Goymer
Co-Opted Governors Simon Calvert Jahseen Foster Ash Patel Richard Pelly Peter Thorn	Ex Officio Governor The Headteacher, Joolz Scarlett
	Local Authority Governor Helen McHale
	Clerk to Governors Sharon Glover

The Governors responsibilities are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

For further information about Governors, please visit the [Governing Board](#) page on the school website.

We currently have a full complement of governors but would always be keen to hear from anybody who might be interested in becoming a governor. If this could be you, please do contact me or the Headteacher to discuss what this would involve.

Governors have agreed that their main strategic priorities for this academic year are:

1. Maintaining continued education and operations during disruptions such as Covid19, with a focus on recovering lost learning, especially from issues concerning Social Emotional and Mental Health.
2. Preparation of a financially viable School Development Plan for the three years from September 2022.
3. Seeking best value for money for the core services and seeking benefit to MGS from the provision of additional services, and thereby to the Local Authority as well.

We are in the third year of our current 3-year School Development Plan which you can view on the [school website](#). Do tell me or the Headteacher if you have any views on strategic issues that should be considered by Governors as we develop the new School Development Plan.

Reflecting on last year, we are especially pleased to highlight some features:

1. Achieving the Nurture Schools' Award
2. Linking students' EHCP outcomes to the school's assessment and reporting models
3. Consolidating the school's longer term financial stability
4. Improving communications with parents and carers
5. Maintaining, so far as was possible, the education and nurture of our students during the lockdown period from March to June.

After four financially challenging years we were delighted to be debt free on 31 March 2021. One immediately visible result is that we now have three new minibuses. We do, however, still expect significant challenges balancing the longer-term budget in the years ahead. More financial information is at the Annex.

On a personal note, I became the Interim Chair of Governors in February 2017 at the request of RBWM. In July 2017, I was co-opted as a Governor and elected Chair of Governors. Having worked with the school for nearly five years now, I am continually impressed by the cheerfulness of the staff and their impressive impact on the students. I am proud to be the Chair of Governors.

Finally, we are really grateful for the partnership working between parents and the school that helps our students do their best. We look forward to seeing our dedicated staff and the good outcomes for students continuing to enhance the reputation of Manor Green School as the Centre of Excellence for Inclusion, and one of the most successful special schools in the country.

Yours sincerely



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Annex: Financial information