

# Governor News

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

JULY 2017

## Contact Us

Via the school: 01925 635556

Email: [governingbody@cardinal-newman.co.uk](mailto:governingbody@cardinal-newman.co.uk)

One of our priorities as Governors is to keep you in the picture regarding both who we are and what we do to support our shared aim to make Cardinal Newman the best it can be for your children.

## Who we are is important ..

because our aim as a governing body is to have a broad range of skills, experience and educational expertise while at the same time representing fairly the perspectives of parents, carers and staff.

## What we do matters ..

because we really care for the school as a community of faith. We want all our students to be the best they can be building character, learning, progressing, achieving.

## What do we do?

The Governing Body's primary function is to act as a "critical friend" to the senior management of the school; we do not get involved in the day-to-day running of the school but take a strategic, more objective, view. We also hold the school to account for its educational performance, and furthermore, our Foundation Governors are appointed on behalf of the Bishop to represent the interests of the Trustees of the Diocese.

Foundation Governors also have the responsibility of assisting the Bishop, by sustaining and developing the Catholic ethos and distinctive Catholic nature of the school in which they serve. They have a specific commission that takes the form of an undertaking to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Diocesan Trust Deed.

Over this school year, our relationship with the Senior Leaders of the school has gone from strength to strength. We have open and honest discussions with school staff over a whole range of issues. Without this strong partnership, we would not be able to carry out our responsibilities, and so we thank the Senior Leaders and all the staff for ongoing hard work and commitment.

## Committee Structure

Our structure centres on two main committees. The **School Improvement Committee** is responsible for overseeing matters related to the curriculum, welfare & the ethos of the school.

The **Finance & HR Committee** is responsible for keeping an eye on the budget & any recruitment or staffing issues.

These two committees meet at least once every term. The full governing body holds its statutory meeting once per term. At every meeting, Governors ask themselves what impact the decisions made in the course meeting will have on the pupils and their learning.

Sub-committees meet on an ad hoc basis when required. These are for Admissions, Pupil Discipline, Head teacher's Performance Review and also one for staffing issues.

## Highlights of 2016-17

Highlights of 2016-17 include:

The sporting successes of former pupils who have all returned to Cardinal Newman to inspire and encourage our students-Double Silver Rio Olympic Medallist James Guy and Rugby Trio Andre Savelio, Dec Patten and Harvey Livett.

The Y9 Rugby League Schools' Plate Winners.

The Awesome Rowing Team in the Inter schools' regatta; The girls team came first and the boys second. Cardinal



Newman was awarded the school of the year Trophy.

The school's first trip to Rome; the establishment of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme; the ongoing development of the Chaplaincy Group; the development of the Y5 Open Evening held in June; staff training and awareness of mental health and coping strategies, working in partnership with CAMHS.

**Specific Governor Roles**

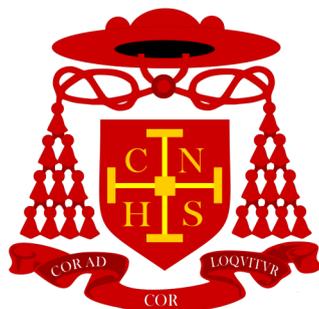
**Chair of Governors-**

**Fr Peter Montgomery**

**Pupil Premium, Child Protection,  
Children in Care, Safeguarding -**

**Mrs Julie Johnson**

**Catholic Ethos -Mrs Anne Skilki,**



**SEN- Ms Bernie Quigley**

**Health and Safety, Attendance**

**Mr Ron Beever**

**The Governing would like to recognise the contribution of the following members of staff who are embarking on retirement after many years of loyal service to the school. Mrs Barker-Deputy Head teacher; Mr Hampton-Head of RE; Mrs Walsh—RE Teacher**

**What do Governors do?**

*Rest assured that the governors at Cardinal Newman do more than just attend meetings. Some of the things we've done in the last year include:*

- ◆ *Attending events including Masses, Prize Giving, School Productions. Open Evening and the Art Exhibition.*
- ◆ *Reviewing and updating policies.*
- ◆ *Attending Staff Interviews, at all levels.*
- ◆ *Participating in prayer and discussion with the Chaplaincy group.*

◆ *Visiting school during the working day to see the school in action.*

◆ *Giving talks to groups of students.*

◆ *Undertaking training both in house and external*

*We try to ensure some of us attend every event so look out for us in the future.*

**Who are the Governors ?**

*Our Chair is Father Peter Montgomery, parish priest of Blessed John Henry Newman Church. He has many years of experience as a governor for primary and secondary schools.*

*Chair of the School Improvement Committee is Julie Johnson, retired Head of Our Lady's Catholic Primary School who now works on a part-time basis for the Diocese of Shrewsbury*

*Chair of the Finance Committee is Alan Paget, who held a managerial role in the rail industry prior to semi- retirement.*

*Ron Beever & Anne Skilki are retired teachers. Anne is a catechist for some of the students who prepare for confirmation. whilst at Cardinal Newman. Bernie Quigley is a Community Midwife, Vicky Whitfield is a teacher at Cardinal Newman. Helen Rotherham is a chartered accountant who has brought much needed financial expertise to the Governing Body.*

*This year, we have said thanks and a fond farewell to Governors Conor McCreesh and Helen Jones who have both made a significant impact to the work of the school. We wish them well. We have welcomed Glen Rawlinson, as LA Governor, who is also a parent. He has a background in teaching, and is settling in well! Moving forward as we look to the next academic year, we will be seeking to recruit a new Parent Governor, hopefully with skills in IT, to join the team.*

**What Next?**

*In the Autumn Term, we will be fully reviewing the Performance Data 2017, recruiting a new Parent Governor, working with the Senior Leaders to plan the strategic vision for the school, as well as looking at how the new National Formula Funding will affect the school. We would also like to improve Governor involvement in transition from Primary, in order to enhance the school's partnerships with local primaries. We also hope to seek ways of how we can support the school to engage parents more fully in the life of the school, particularly in relation to Parents' Evening. We will continue to attend Briefings and Training in order to support the school, and keep abreast of new developments.*

***Thank you to all those who lead and work in our Cardinal Newman Catholic High School. We thank them for their hard work and dedication and we pray that they might continue to work in support of our school.***

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Y11 students every success in the future, and to use their God given talents and skills each day and to remember their times at Cardinal Newman with fondness.**



*Inter schools' Rowing Regatta; The girls team celebrating first place.*