



GOVERNORS

Ian McBain-Chair

Foundation governor

Eileen Dutt - Vice Chair

Foundation governor

Fr Michael Lambert

Foundation governor

Ted Hollingdale

Foundation governor

Julian Talbot-Brady

Parent Foundation governor

Julian Sweeny

Parent Foundation governor

Mark Dray

Foundation governor

David Norman

Elected Parent governor

Neil Adams

Elected Parent governor

Nicola Sylvester

LEA governor

Andrea Shannon

Elected Staff governor

Susan Brown

Headteacher governor

Sue Shakespeare

Clerk

OUR LADY CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Old Hale Way

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Dear All

I have been a Governor at Our Lady School for over 15 years now and it never ceases to amaze me how the school seems to get better and better. Many schools peak and trough but our school seems to rise to any challenge and, there have been quite a few recently.

To put it in modern day parlance, I think it is because our school has the X-Factor.

I have 4 main reasons why I think this would be so:-

No.1- X-ceptional teachers - teachers who are not only imaginative but challenging our children to their full capabilities. Our teachers have had to make a tough choice between taking industrial action over a cause they believe in and continuing to work for the good of our school and the pupils. As Governors, we are extremely grateful that our teachers chose to continue working despite their grievances. We do hope that their disagreement can be resolved amicably. Their choice to continue working just shows what a dedicated group they are in putting their pupils first.

No.2 X-tremely dedicated support staff. Without our TAs, site staff and back office staff, our school could not function and, again, do not under-estimate the support and willing assistance they give to our teachers.

No.3 X-traordinary children, who want to learn and do learn in such imaginative ways. Our children have got to be the best and demonstrate this time after time.

No.4 X-tra special School Council who respect the rights of all pupils in the school and represent them so admirably. Our School Council is increasingly becoming more confident in their duties and Governors are proud and always eager to hear what they have to say. They are a true voice for all the pupils in the school.

Four reasons why I believe our school has the X-Factor which is proved time and time again by our Ofsted results (which I guess is the educational equivalent to the X-Factor)

In the last few months, since the last Governor's report, we have seen the wonderful murals finished and then blessed by Father Michael. The murals make a splendid statement about what our school is all about and have brightened up the entrance.

We have been able to improve the facility to the Reception Class outdoor play area to make it a fun place to provide classes and teaching outside rather than all in the class room.

Despite reduced budgets and higher spending, we have managed to get the roof patch repaired to hopefully reduce the amount of water leaks in some of the classrooms. Now we can carry out a re-vamp of the staff room to make it a more pleasant environment for teachers and support staff to rest between lessons and to prepare the next lessons in relative comfort.



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As Chair of the Operations Committee, I am also the Governor responsible for sustainability and, once again our school has not let us down. Our Eco committee has been doing sterling work in keeping sustainability at the forefront. In support of the eco-committee, Governors have Sustainability as a standing agenda item at Governors meetings. We are now monitoring energy consumption closely and I am pleased to report that, despite the very cold winter at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, we have managed to keep our consumption under control.

Despite sterling work by Ian McBain, Father Michael, Neil Adams and Mrs Brown, we are still trying to find our way through the implications, positives and negatives in becoming an Academy but, so far, we are not very far forward, probably because other priorities have overtaken central government but, once we know more, we will report our findings to parents.

I started off this newsletter saying why I think our school has the X-Factor, well; apparently we also have a Governor with the X-Factor. Some of you may remember that Ian McBain, as Chair of Governors was nominated for the Governor of the Year competition and made it to the National Finals. This not only meant a trip to Drury Lane Theatre for the National Finals but, as a reward, Ian was also invited to 10 Downing Street to meet David Cameron and Michael Gove, the Education Secretary, at a reception, congratulations Ian.

I would like to welcome our new Foundation Governor, Mark Dray, who many of the children will know from his years of supporting the residential trips for Year 4 and Year 6. The governors also thank retiring governor, Juanita Carrey, for all her work during her term of office on the Governing board.

And finally, the New Year is likely to bring us all some major challenges but, whatever the new year throws at us, I know that with the Lord's help and the support of parents, staff, pupils and Governors, we will continue to grow on the successes our school has had this year.

On behalf of the whole Governing Body, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Ted Hollingdale

Next newsletter to be written by Neil Adams