

## **Governor Blog**

As governors, we want to keep you up to date on what we do. We thought having a governors blog on the website will help with this.

My name is Paul Ilott and I have been asked to write this blog. I have been a governor for six years or so and before that was Chair and Treasurer of FOGS. My daughter, Hannah, was a Granta pupil and as a former teacher with 30 years of experience, including 8 as a Head, I hoped that I could help the school which had done so much for her.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time as governor. It is most rewarding and also great fun.

So what do we do? At Granta, we have a Governing Body made up of individuals from the school staff, local community, local authority and parents of Granta students. They provide a high level of expertise, knowledge and experience from within and outside the world of education.

The governor's role is mainly to act as a critical friend to the senior management team, to keep a strategic view of where the school is heading and to make sure that Granta achieves the best educational standards. Together with Lucie and her team, we set targets for raising standards of educational achievement and monitor the progress towards meeting these targets. We try to find the right balance between supporting and challenging the performance of the school as a whole, deciding strategy, policy and future development plans.

We review the policies, plans and procedures of the school and take care to act fairly at all times. We do not act alone, but as members of Team Granta and take collective decisions for the benefit of the whole school community. We share responsibility for staff employment and always work openly.

We have two full governors meetings a term and various committee meetings. The committees are Finance and General Purposes, Curriculum, Human Resources (Personnel) and Health and Safety, which also meet twice a term. All governors can attend all meetings. We also have governors with special responsibilities in key areas. One governor is responsible for monitoring the school's safeguarding procedures and child protection. A governor also monitors how the Pupil Premium is spent. We have a small committee which carries out Lucie's performance review on an annual basis.

It is very important that governors know how the school operates on a day to day basis. We often visit on normal school days therefore as well as attending whole school events. Governors are given tours (Learning Walks) of the school so that they see it in action. Governors on the Curriculum Committee

also have special links with different aspects of the school curriculum from individual subjects, key stages or how different types of need are provided for. They make regular visits to meet staff and to observe lessons. They then report back to the Curriculum Committee and to Lucie.

All current governors are listed on the website with their particular responsibilities. All members of the school community are free to contact governors via the school office whenever they wish.

As another school year comes to an end, the governors are overwhelmingly encouraged by what is happening in the school. Our visit reports consistently mention the wonderful atmosphere, how impressive both staff and students are, the strength of the relationship between staff and students and just how hard everybody is working to ensure that Granta remains a fantastic school.

The school never rests on its laurels. Lucie and her team are constantly looking for ways to move the school forward. This year they have produced an ambitious five year development plan for Granta which they are straining every sinew to implement, so far with great success. The curriculum is always changing, making it more and more appropriate to the needs of the students. Keeping up with ever developing technology is particularly important and again every effort is made to provide the best aids available for individual students as well as ICT in general.

At the same time outside pressures make life a bit more complicated. Schools have to adapt to the constantly changing demands of the government of the day, Inevitably financial restraints are becoming more acute in the current climate and the services provided by the local authority are reducing. Academy status is another issue which has been in the news recently and has to be considered. All we can say as governors is that we have great confidence in Lucie and her staff being able to overcome difficulties, hopefully with our help too, so that we can ensure that Granta continues to provide the best possible education for its students.