

Governors Newsletter - Spring Term 2018

School Business Manager

A New Year brings new challenges as well as some existing ones. It's also a time for reflection and for anyone connected with MJS, the sad death of Mark Cresswell last term caused us all to stop and think. His loss demonstrated how vital a good business manager is to the success of the school. The fact he was a splendid chap with a very dry sense of humour means he is missed all the more.

The School Business Manager runs the business side of the school, reporting to the Head Teacher. It's easy to overlook that schools today are a business – delivering education and producing well-rounded, confident pupils is the product but the fact is that MJS employs over 80 people and has an annual turnover of £2-3 million. A good business manager takes care of the everyday admin, finance, HR and such like so that the Head Teacher can get on with their job of delivering education. Mark also made my role easier – the Governing Body is ultimately responsible for ensuring the public money entrusted to the school is spent correctly. He ran a tight budget, got best value on our expenditure and had all the information I needed to hand (usually before I realised I needed it).

Mark has left some big shoes to fill but I am pleased to welcome Stuart Reeve who starts this term as our new business manager. Stuart is experienced and was the stand-out candidate for the post. I am sure he will be an equally strong asset for the school.

New Governors

As you will know we appointed three new co-opted Governors, Amie Potticary, Seena Shah and Mike Faulconbridge to fill vacancies on the Board. We also had an election last term to elect a new Parent Governor and Robert Sweeney was successful. I'd like to welcome all four to the team.

What was particularly pleasing was the level of interest shown in the Parent Governor post (we had 7 strong candidates) and by the fact that over 200 parents voted. The more parents get involved in the school, either as a Governor, through FOMS, or by helping on school trips or supporting children with reading or maths, the better (and I'm delighted to see that FOMS already has some big plans for the coming year). There is clear evidence to show that strong parental involvement can boost a child's learning considerably. Any way you can help the school means you are helping your child do better.

I also think it important that parents understand more about how a school is run. As part of that we aim to attend key events such as parents' evenings and the new children/parents introduction to MJS, so that parents get an opportunity to ask and challenge Governors on how the school is run.



Ofsted

Looking forward the main event for us is the visit of Ofsted. All schools who “require improvement” are re-inspected within two years so we will be visited by Ofsted sometime between now and May. Schools get less than one day’s notice of an inspection, so we need to be ready (Ofsted pay attention to what parents think so please have your say on the Ofsted Parent View site).

We have addressed the issues identified by Ofsted last time, improved where we needed to and think we are now close to where we want to be. We shall see. Obviously, we want to regain our “good” status, but being rated good - or outstanding – and getting a badge from Ofsted isn’t our key objective.

Our aims are set out in the school prospectus (link below) and are all about helping each child achieve good academic progress, be safe, be stimulated, and ultimately to help them become responsible and valued members of the community. But we will not automatically achieve these aims just because Ofsted thinks we are “good”.

In fact, it’s the other way around. If we met these aims and set up the right environment to continually deliver and improve them, then we will be “good”.

Mike Klym
Chair, MJS Governors

Key links

Information on the MJS Governing Body:

<http://www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Governing+body+Information&pid=35>

Trustees Report

<http://www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=914&type=pdf>

Prospectus

<http://www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Prospectus&pid=12>

Ofsted Parent view

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

Contact the Governing Body

Please contact us via the school’s email or address (marked for the Governing Body). Or simply chat to us at a school event.