



St Thomas More

Governor Newsletter

February 9, 2018

*With Christ We Grow in Faith
and Understanding*

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**Contact the committee
via the Chair email on:
Chairstm@dbmac.org.uk**

*Contact us with comments,
questions, concerns or
positive feedback. We are
here to serve the school and
community in a voluntary
capacity and look forward to
hearing from you.*

01. Changes to the Committee

We would like to thank Mrs Nickie Rogan for her years of service to St Thomas More over the past 4 years, and more! In fact, she first joined this school as a teaching assistant in 2003. Her term as Foundation Governor came to an end on the 14th of January. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the all the years of service she has given this school. In particular, over the past 3 years where she stood as the Chair of Governors. She has spent countless hours volunteering in this role. From being a tireless Santa's helper, to chairing meetings and dealing with logistics on a weekly basis. We wish her well!

Acting Chair: Sally-Anne Reckless, as Vice Chair, has stepped into the role of acting Chair with Mrs Rogan's term coming to an end. Sally has been part of the committee since 2014 as a foundation governor. She works in the NHS as a junior doctor and has 3 children in the school. She has attended training through Oxfordshire County Council and is supported by the committee in serving the school as a volunteer.

02. Current Committee

As part of a multiacademy the governors of this school are technically referred to as the Local Academy Committee. This Committee at St Thomas More is answerable to the main Board of Directors of the Dominic Barberi Multi Academy Company, of which we are part. Our current committee members are listed below. More information can be found online on the school's website under "Our Community" tab.

Our Committee			Date Joined
Breda Bowles		Principal	Sept 2015
Sally Reckless	F	Vice-Chair (Acting Chair Jan'18)	June 2014
Stephen Finn	F	Chair Finance	April 2017
John Bellasis	F	Parish Link/Safeguarding	Oct 2016
Emma Rhodes	P	Finance	July 2014
Eamonn Bennett	P	Curriculum	Jan 2017
Julia Hamper	C	Chair Curriculum	Sept 2017
Gabriel Nicoalau	C	Finance	June 2017
Lucy Coleman	S	Curriculum	March 2017
Sophie Upellini	S	Finance	June 2017
Chris Robins	O	Curriculum	2012
Nicola Rogan		Previous Chair	Jan 2018 (<i>Stepped down</i>)
Judy East		Clerk to the Committee	Dec 2015

F: Foundation P: Parent C: Co-opted S: Staff O: Observer



What do governors do?

School governing bodies are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. Together with the Principal, who is responsible for day-to-day management, they set the school's aims and policies.

Governors have three main roles:

1. To provide strategic direction for the school
2. To act as critical friend to the Principal
3. To ensure accountability

Do governors get paid for their work? No.

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards.

Access more information on our school website:

- All committee meeting minutes
- Courses we have attended
- School visits and learning walk reports

03. Current Vacancies

The committee is now recruiting.

We have four Foundation Governor vacancies.

What is a Foundation Governor?

A foundation governor is one who has links with the parish or the Catholic Church. As a Catholic School we aim to work with and for the community around us. As part of the parish or as a Catholic you may find that governorship offers an opportunity to serve the community and gain a great deal of satisfaction from bringing your own skills and experiences to help the school and children in it.

What if I am not a Catholic or part of the Parish but would like to help?

If you have a skill or interest that would benefit the school you can become part of the governing body as a Parent Governor or as a Co-opted Governor. Please contact us via email: chairstm@dbmac.org.uk if you are interested in joining the academy committee as a governor.



04. Governor Activities

Learning Walks: Governors have visited the school many times since the September year looking specifically at

- Reading and the library
- Catholicity in the classroom
- School Motto
- School Lunches and the Playground
- Parent Teacher Meetings
- Health and Safety: looking to secure funding on areas of the school building that need repair.
- English as a second language (EAL)

Meetings/upcoming events:

- Thus far this year there have been 2 full governing body meetings and 3 subcommittee meetings (minutes are accessible on the internet)
- Upcoming meetings:
 - our next full body governing body meeting is in March
 - Once a term there is a joint meeting between staff and governors
- After half term there will be a review of teaching, learning, leadership and governance across the school as part of a yearly school improvement process.
- We continue to keep in touch with the DBMAC directors seeking information and clarification of processes, especially those that have an impact on our children.

