

John Masefield High School and Sixth Form Centre

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Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to introduce myself as the relatively new Chair of Governors at JMHS. I took over the role of Chair at the end of October 2016 from Kevin Welford, who had been Chair for a year.

Many of you will know me as a parent, GP in a local surgery, GP running a drop in clinic for students or through other community roles I've enjoyed through volunteering. I also chaired Ledbury Primary School Governing Body for several years and have been a governor at JMHS for around 5 years. During my time at JMHS I have chaired the Personnel and Welfare Committee for several years and been the safeguarding governor.

I hope that through my knowledge of working/being involved in the community and with schools over many years and using my professional experiences I can enable the JMHS Governing Body to support the school in its continual forward drive.

I am also working with a National Leader of Governance, Karen Frost who has been supporting the very positive transitions in governance we have implemented.

Claire McKeown is Vice Chair. Claire has experience of governance over many years and is a Headteacher of two primary schools rated good and outstanding; Claire is also a National Leader of Education and has experience of working with OFSTED.

Claire took over from Ben McCarthy, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Ben and Kevin for their work in governance at JMHS. The work of governors, who are volunteers, is very much appreciated.

Both Claire and I are currently parent governors and both our children have attended/are attending the school throughout their education to 6th form conclusion.

The school's aims and visions around excellent and enjoyable education for all, enabling children to achieve their personal best in all aspects of life are shared completely and developed by our current governors with our school leadership team.

We are now working extremely hard as a group of governors with high commitment levels to enable us to hold school leaders to account around all aspects of the school, to impact ultimately on the key people – the students. We are fortunate in having an excellent Clerk who has enabled us to develop robust systems to look at focussed areas of the school via committees and link

governor roles, whereby we can be more involved in considering outcomes of processes and impacts for students both long and short term.

At full governor meetings and through governor education we ensure we have enough information and understanding about progress and school development and impacts of current strategies; this enhances our ability to support and challenge the school management and fulfil our role well and appropriately.

We have recently redeveloped systems including the use of individual governors or paired governors to look at themes the school is focussing on both long and short term. We are also focussing on supporting new governors and recruiting governors who can support us in areas where we would value expertise such as HR or finances or legal expertise.

We also enjoy supporting school events such as celebration events, open evenings and concerts.

We have an upcoming parent governor election and we will soon be appointing some community governors potentially, so please don't hesitate to contact me at chair@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk if you would like to discuss becoming a governor at JMHS. Information about the parent governor elections will follow in separate correspondence.

I feel very privileged to be involved in this way at JMHS as it is a superb school where the strive to always improve has always been impressive. The ethos of the school and vision is excellent and I very much hope that as governors we are now in a great position to be supporting and challenging the school leaders to ensure the vision is achieved and maintained.

Yours faithfully,

Debs Hiley
Chair of Governors