



Governance at Middlewich High School Spring Term 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to our first Middlewich High School Governance Newsletter. We have decided to produce a termly newsletter for parents/carers to give you an idea of what goes on in governance at MHS.

Since the start of the pandemic the school has really 'raised the bar' regarding communication and has done an excellent job in building an important relationship with the community. Unfortunately, without the opportunity for us to meet parents/carers at events such as open evenings, opportunities for governors to meet with our key stakeholders have been necessarily restricted.

So, what have we been up to this term?

We began the term with a Full Governing Board meeting in January. We started by welcoming Mike Taylor, our new staff governor, to the board and we also had the opportunity to meet Angela Deakin, a prospective new co-opted governor who was invited to observe. The significance of this meeting was the presentation by the Sir John Brunner Foundation regarding our conversion to an academy within the SJBF Multi Academy Trust. It was a chance for governors to meet key personnel (virtually) within the Trust and to ask them questions about it. We then had a finance update where we discussed free school meal vouchers and the issue of providing laptops for students for remote learning, and we finished with the headteacher's autumn term report which was centred around the school's remote learning provision and Lateral Flow Testing for COVID-19.

In February we had a meeting of the Progress and Attainment Committee where we had the chance to welcome Angela Deakin to her first official meeting as a governor. We started by reviewing the results of the Year 11 trial exams and went on to discuss the process by which Year 11 grades might be assessed later this year. We also received a detailed presentation on the assessment of the remote learning provision at MHS and finished by receiving some excellent training from Miss Holt on how the school designs the curriculum.

In March it was the Resources Committee meeting. Here we covered everything from Safeguarding to SEND, to Pupil Premium, Finance, Attendance, Attitude to Learning, Exclusions, Staffing, Health and Safety and GDPR. Needless to say, a busy meeting!

The minutes of this meeting (as with all governing board meetings) are on the school website. If you would like more detail about what was discussed under any of the above headings, please click [here](#).

The last meeting of the term was a Full Governing Board meeting which was held last week. Having covered all aspects of the school at committee level, we were pleased to have a relatively gentle end to the term. It gave us the opportunity to reflect on the impressive amount of training governors have undertaken this term and to acknowledge the fact that, despite the ongoing pandemic, every Link Governor had managed at least one (virtual) school visit with their respective member of the Senior Leadership Team. We then received an update on academy conversion and finished off with the headteacher's termly report. The relatively small agenda gave us the opportunity to have a lengthy and comprehensive discussion with Ms Thurland in our determination to support and sustain the school's commitment to ongoing improvement.

Governance Statistics for Spring Term 2021:

<i>Governing Board Meetings:</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Governor Visits (virtual):</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Governor Training Courses Attended:</i>	<i>53 (10 governors)</i>

There are currently two vacancies on our governing board – one parent and one co-opted. If you are interested in becoming a governor, or would like to know more about the role, then take a look at the governance section on the school website by clicking [here](#). Please do not hesitate to get in touch with our clerk to governors, Becki Dale if you require any further information – clerk@middlewichhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

We would like to finish by wishing you all the very best for a safe and happy Easter, and to say thank you for all your hard work in continuing to support and engage with the school throughout this challenging time – 'Thank You'