



Governance at Middlewich High School Summer Term 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to our second MHS Governance Newsletter. As we come to the end of another busy term, it's time to look back at what part governance has played in keeping the school open and keeping our children safe.

Whilst looking ahead, we had hoped for a return to some semblance of normality, with perhaps the return to face-to-face meetings and a chance to get back into school. Unfortunately, that idea was quickly dismissed, and it was yet another term of Google Meets!

The main focuses for this term were threefold:

- 1. To ensure that our children got back into school and, alongside our staff, felt safe in their environment.*
- 2. To ensure that all students reconnected with the curriculum and that our Year 11's were given the best possible chance at getting the GCSE grades that they strived for.*
- 3. To ensure that the school set a budget that would enable it to emerge from the pandemic in a stronger and more robust position.*

So, what have we been up to this term?

The first meeting of the term was a Resources Committee meeting in May. The main item on the agenda was the budget, which had already been scrutinised by our Link governor for Finance, Catherine. Governors were presented with both 1 year and 3-year budgets which showed that the school is in a financially healthy position moving forward. We received a presentation on the proposed development of our SEND Resource Provision and discussed reports on Safeguarding, Attitude to Learning, Attendance, Exclusions, Staffing and GDPR.

This meeting was followed a week later by a Budget meeting where the Full Governing Body approved the budget recommended by the Resources Committee.

The next meeting was not until the beginning of July, when the Progress & Attainment Committee started with a presentation on Careers/STEM. This is an area which has really been affected by the pandemic, with the loss of I-value days and mock interviews, so it was really refreshing to see how much progress the school has made since our last Ofsted inspection. Our Link Governors for Careers/STEM, Alan and Angela, who have been working with the school, have brought a huge amount of experience and enthusiasm to the table, and this will no doubt pay dividends in the future. The committee also looked at the process for Teacher Assessed Grades for this year's GCSE's and finished with a presentation on Pupil Premium, focussing on attendance.

We ended the term with a Full Governing Board meeting. The highlight of which was the headteacher's report, covering everything from COVID-19 updates to student and staff welfare, student progress, holiday dates, transition, capital investment, staffing and the PTFA. We had an update on academy conversion, which is still on track for completion on 1st September and we also had time to reflect on the amount of training governors have undertaken this term and to acknowledge the fact that, despite the ongoing pandemic, every Link Governor had once again managed at least one (virtual) school visit with their respective member of the schools Senior Leadership Team.

Governance Stats for Summer Term 2021:

<i>Governing Board Meetings:</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Governor Visits (virtual):</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Governor Training Courses Attended:</i>	<i>14 (6 Governors)</i>

Unfortunately, during this term we had to say farewell to Stuart Mayhead, who has reluctantly stepped down as a Governor. That means there are currently three vacancies on our governing board – one parent and two 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](#), or get in touch with our chair of governors, Colin Price.

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