



**MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS JANE BURNETT**

The Governors have spent the time this academic year since our very successful Ofsted inspection monitoring the new School Improvement Plan (SIP). One aspect of our work we wish to develop next year is our engagement with stakeholders across the school community. We are intending to develop a joint vision and strategy for the next few years at NKS. The question we will be asking ourselves and all stakeholders is “**What do we want a Norton Knatchbull student to look like when they leave the school at the end of Year 13?**” The answer to that question will enable us to determine what we need to continue to do to as well as enhance what we currently are doing to achieve that goal. We will ask that question of you as parents, students, and staff to help us determine a vision and strategy.

As the summer holidays begin the Site Team will be doing various bits of work on site which include refurbishments of the Science labs and a major piece of work replacing the library roof.

Finally, we are losing three Governors this term. Carol Parsons, whose questions, and ability to see the minutiae will be missed by the Education Committee, as she leaves us to spend more time travelling.

Beth Rowlands will be leaving us to support her son through his GCSE's. Beth has been an excellent Staff Governor for the past year and a bit, providing valuable reflections from a teaching staff perspective. We wish them both well and thank them for their service.

We also say goodbye to Andrew Judd who has been an outstanding Governor for five years acting as Safeguarding lead, sitting on all three committees, and acting as Chair and Co-Chair of Governors. We will all really miss Andrew and wish him well.

**Jane Burnett**  
Chair of Governors

**GOVERNOR REFLECTIONS – EVENING MUSIC CONCERT ON 27 JUNE 2024**

By **Michael-John Knatchbull**  
Foundation Governor

This was an opportunity to showcase some of the Music department's leading ensemble groups and soloists. There were eight separate performances with over 40 students contributing and featuring works ranging from Beethoven to the Blues Brothers.

The talent on display was outstanding and it's clear Mr Thomas and his department have instilled a love of music and of performance across the board.

Clearly a lot of rehearsal and preparation went into the evening, and I left with my spirits lifted high. It is evident the performers and the audience had a memorable evening - music is alive and well at The Norton Knatchbull.



## GOVERNOR DAY – 28 JUNE 2024

By **Charlotte Burke**  
Parent Governor

### What have the Governors ever done for us?

It's a fair question which we want to answer more clearly. As Governors, we have the same shared goals as the rest of the school. We work with the headteacher and SLT to set the ethos, vision and strategic direction, and have a balancing role to monitor the financial management and educational performance of the school.

Governors are 'critical friends', asking questions to support and challenge at all levels so that the school can be the best it can be. Governors are more than just enthusiasts for an excellent education. We have a wide range of skills and must be curious, collaborative and committed; prepared to challenge appropriately and to keep the school's wider purpose at the heart of conversations.

This term, most Governors spent an intense and productive morning visiting the school in action. It may be known as '**Governor Day**', but the focus is squarely on what we see across the school – engaged students and committed staff. It enabled us to have fruitful conversations with students and staff, prompt improvements and celebrate success.

It was an important chance to listen directly to staff, opening up honest conversations about the long-term strategy of the school, importance of improved communication, workload, staff wellbeing and career development. We heard more about the research which staff are leading, including projects on environmental sustainability and on supporting neurodiverse students.

It was a privilege for Governors to hear directly from students, who were bold and articulate in their feedback. With students from Year 7 to Sixth Form, we explored how school policies are working in practice, and explored important issues of inclusion, drugs education and misogyny.

We looked at how staff are embedding creativity and innovation in all subjects across the curriculum and how great strides are being made in the development of a Super Curriculum and the KnatchBacc for next year. Personal Development is at the heart of creating a culture of inclusion at the school, so we looked at both how this is woven in through lessons and cross-curricular activities, and what the reality of Student Support looks like in practice. We reviewed the recent Parent Survey results which reflected the high importance that parents place on this.

Thank you to all the students and staff as ever for making us all so welcome. It was an inspiring and thought-provoking morning and sets the scene for a positive year ahead.



**NEW GOVERNOR**

**Vivian Ching, Community Governor, Personnel Committee**



As a Senior Lecturer in Business Management at Ravensbourne University London, Vivian is positioned at the nexus of London's dynamic design ecosystem in delivering modules for undergraduate and postgraduate students in Project Management, Leadership and Work-Based Learning.

Vivian's academic journey is marked by a rich tapestry of qualifications, including a PhD in Quality Management; two Masters degrees in Engineering and International Economic Law from the University of Warwick, as well as a Master's degree in Management from the University of Bath; complemented by a Bachelor's degree in Economics with a minor in Anthropology from the University of Virginia.

Beyond academia, Vivian enjoys art, specialising in colourful abstract painting designs which have been showcased in 18 worldwide exhibitions, television, charity events, and even in space, through a historic collaboration with Canon in 2014 - becoming the first Hong Kong artist to exhibit art in space. In her career, Dr Ching has also served in advisory capacities to some of the world's leading corporations in New York City, Canada and Hong Kong, including the world's largest book publisher, the world's largest Health & Beauty Retail Chain, and a Global Fortune 500 Telecommunication conglomerate. Her work in transforming professional learning through the arts has benefited organisations such as UBS, Nomura, AIA, Siemens, Perrier-Jouët, and the Hilton Group, evidencing her role as a bridge between artistic creativity and business innovation.

Vivian is the British Council's Alumni UK Regional Ambassador for Northeast Asia, a Member of the Court at the University of Bath and a Trustee of Engage (National Association of Gallery Education) and is currently in the process of co-authoring a book on the application of Artificial Intelligence in Creative Industries slated for publication in 2024.

**NEW GOVERNOR**

**Alex Evans-Crane, Community Governor, Finance & General Purposes Committee**



Alex has lived in east Kent for the last 40 years and has lived within the borough of Ashford for the last five. Alex is a Civil Servant working for the Home Office, helping to deliver the Governments priorities, working across multiple departments.

During Alex's career, he has developed an excellent understanding of communicating and influencing to get the best outcomes, working across Silo's to help deliver challenging outcomes, and learning how to convert challenges into opportunities.



Alex spent 10 years on a Trade Union National Executive Committee, engaging with multiple government departments, building an effective network across interests, and undertaking complex HR related union casework.

Alex is a local beekeeper and produces several varieties of Honey from hives around Ashford.

**NEW GOVERNOR**

**Jyoti Patel, Community Governor, Finance & General Purposes Committee**



With a background in high-hazard manufacturing, Jyoti has successfully overseen waste treatment plants, managed pharmaceutical manufacturing teams, and spearheaded decommissioning projects. Her expertise spans compliance with industry standards, operational improvements, and adeptly navigating change. Jyoti brings a keen eye for financial management, HSE compliance, and a pursuit of operational excellence.

Although a Chemistry graduate, Jyoti's thirst for knowledge remains unquenchable. Currently enrolled in a Strategic Leadership MSc program at Newcastle University, she complements her academic pursuits with Leadership and Management training from the Chartered Management Institute. Additionally, Jyoti holds certifications in safety, waste management, and leadership.

Beyond the professional realm, Jyoti finds joy in running and gardening.

**Have a relaxing Summer!**