

Cranborne Middle School Governors report 2021-22

Thankfully we experienced no further lockdowns during this last year, although cases of Covid amongst the staff and pupils continued to cause disruption in learning, and a major challenge to the SLT to provide cover when every other school was also looking for supply staff. However, a full timetable was maintained and enjoyed by the pupils throughout the year.

In September 2021 Dr Sandi Malpas was re-elected as Chair of Governors and Anna McElwaine agreed to extend her term of office in order to remain as Vice Chair. Mrs Marlyn Sadler came to the end of her term of office. Her wisdom and experience as a governor, and in monitoring the Maths provision at CMS will be greatly missed. Mrs Rosemary Tong has agreed to take over this role. Andrew Cawthron also stepped down as Finance Governor having previously extended his term of office. He had much experience in the world of NHS Finance and has been a wise and steadying influence at CMS. We welcome Kathy Cleary, who has an LLB and is a Chartered Accountant, Kathy has agreed to take over this role from September 2022. Clifton Beard was elected as a Parent Governor, and will be a huge asset as he is already Chair of Governors at St James, Gaunts Common, a first school which already sends some pupils to CMS. He has joined the Parent and Pupil Liaison Committee and will take on the monitoring of History and Geography. Mr Mike Garza, our Staff Governor, left CMS to take on an Assistant Head position at a different school, and we welcome Mr Trevor Phelps in his place.

As outlined in our previous report pupil numbers dropped this year due to a variety of factors, the major one being a drop in our feeder school pupil numbers. However due to some concentration on marketing by the Headteacher and the Pupil and Parent Liaison Committee, numbers for 2022-23 are anticipated to rise again, although the following years will remain challenging.

One of our longstanding Assistant Heads announced that she was leaving to take up an education role outside of schools at the end of the academic year. Her focus on teaching and learning will be greatly missed, but we were fortunate to be able to

appoint Mrs Andrea Williams from a strong field, and are confident that she will bring her professionalism and enthusiasm to the post.

Our KS2 results showed an outstanding result in Reading with 86% achieving the Expected Standard and 32% Greater Depth. In Maths 75% achieved the ES and 25% GD. Writing and EGPS continue to provide a challenge and will be a focus in the coming year. A series of interventions in Maths and English will begin in the autumn term, Tim Greedy has joined the school as an extra Maths teacher for KS2 and 3, and Miss Charlotte Zeal and Miss Tara Shaw have been appointed to teach KS2 Maths and English.

The decarbonisation project proceeded throughout the year and the enormous air source heat pumps are now in position and are awaiting the building of the sub-station. Solar panels now cover many of our roofs and will be connected in autumn 2022. We anticipate that this will considerably reduce our carbon emissions and will contribute to a reduction in our energy costs. Re wiring for our High-Speed internet connection will be completed in September 2022.

Over the summer holidays two of the huts which were reaching the end of their useful lives were demolished, and a large outdoor shelter is being built which can be used for outdoor classrooms in the summer and shelter for games throughout the year. The Outdoor Gym is proving extremely popular with pupils.

During the year the FGB met and spent some time discussing the possibility of the school joining a Multi Academy Trust. There are a number of reasons for this move, not least the government's declared intention that all schools should adopt this. Advice from Dorset LA has also suggested that schools should explore this option. The Headteacher and Governors have explored some of the Trusts to which other local schools belong, looking in particular for a Trust which would support the professional development of our staff. We consulted with the Regional School's Commissioner and at a meeting of the FGB in July, a resolution was passed unanimously that we would pursue academisation. When we have made further progress with this we will hold a consultation meeting with staff and parents and look forward to hearing their views.

Following this agreement to pursue academisation, and having reached the end of her challenging but stimulating and enjoyable six year term as Chair of Governors, Dr Sandi Malpas announced her intention to step down at the end of the academic year 2021-22. At an FGB meeting at the start of the autumn term 2022, Mrs Rosemary Tong was elected as Chair of Governors supported by Mrs Anna McElwaine as Vice Chair. The School is extremely fortunate in having such an able and experienced Chair and Vice Chair. Mrs Lisa Turnbull also announced that she would be stepping down, due to other commitments, and we thank her for her brilliantly proactive role as a Parent Governor. We have appointed Mrs Debbie Goold as an Associate Governor and Dr Clare Wedderburn as a Co-opted Governor from September 2022 to strengthen the talents already on the FGB.

We wish CMS every success in the future, and we are convinced that the remaining and newly appointed governors and staff will build on the foundations that have been established over the years, and will grow in wisdom, and in their enthusiasm for learning, and in developing the pupils entrusted to us into becoming happy contributors to our society.

Dr Sandi Malpas – Chairperson 2021 - 2022