

Governor news update

Summer term 2016

This has been an exceptionally busy year for the governing body. We have had several changes to our team as new recruits were not always able to sustain their commitment when work or family matters took priority.

However, we did recruit two new governors who have completed induction and safeguarding training and have accepted link governor roles overseeing the Pupil Premium funding. Another new governor will join us in September and we are delighted to have her expertise on the team. Having lost a parent governor last term we are pleased to say that Angela Smith has agreed to represent parents on the governing body. Angela has worked with the social aspect of parent support alongside Janet Stone. She has excellent knowledge of how Brandles can improve learning opportunities for boys seeing this for herself in her own son.

We have spent many days in the school visiting staff and classes to see how they operate and what is being taught in specific lessons. We now understand how the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme works in conjunction with Field Studies and how both can be interlinked to develop personal skills like independence and self- confidence. The Duke of Edinburgh's award is an important additional opportunity for Brandles' boys to achieve a qualification recognised by employers and very useful on CVs.

As we have lost staff to other schools Mr Vickery has been involved in recruiting replacements who understand the very specific needs of boys at Brandles. We are pleased that he has appointed a specialist mathematician and music teacher. The number of music sessions will increase and boys are once more enjoying the chance to play an instrument.

We have been busy planning new arrangements for the BVEC building at the other side of the school grounds near to the far gates. From September, this area will accommodate staff who work with parents and boys on a one to one basis, for more private meetings and support work. Some boys will occasionally find it difficult to work in their normal class, but the support provided in this new facility will enable them to work through their problem in a more peaceful setting.

We reported at the end of last term that we have a new head for the Autumn term. Mr Pearce will join us with Mrs Gibbs as his deputy. We hope that Brandles will go from strength to strength under his leadership.

We hope you all have a happy break and enjoy the summer.

Pat Furness

Chair of Governors