

ASGB

Association
of Sandwell
Governing
Bodies

**The ASGB is run by members for members to support the work of
governance in Sandwell Schools**

Summer Term 2 Newsletter 2020

Message to Governors from Chris Ward, Director of Education, & Skills for Employment

Dear School Governor,

Over the last four months COVID-19 has brought about more changes to the education system than all of the school reform acts over the last 150 years put together. At the forefront of those changes has been the way in which we have had to physically adapt our buildings and manage our staffing to support the continuation of education for children whether they are on site or off site. At all times the safety of our children and our staff has had to be paramount in our decision making and the actions we have taken have had to be in the best interests of all stakeholders.

To achieve everything, getting the balance right, has been incredibly difficult to manage. Whilst the media has focussed all of their attention on school leadership teams, I'm very mindful of the work that school governors have played in ensuring every school makes the right decision on how to move forward. As a school governor you will have had to make many strategic decisions recently which involve careful planning and risk mitigation. I appreciate that these are not easy decisions to make and the implications of local choices may have weighed heavy on your mind.

However, the support our school leadership teams have received from their governing bodies to continually adapt plans as DfE guidance changes has been exceptional. For this, I would like to personally thank you. I have received nothing but praise from our head teachers about the work you have done and I wouldn't want to get to the end of this term without recognising the contributions you have made and the support you have given to our schools.

Like you, we all are hoping that we can return to some form of normality in the coming months and I look forward to meeting you again soon.

Many thanks,

Chris Ward

Celebrating Sandwell Governors

We were very pleased to share the message above from Chris Ward. We know how hard many governors and chairs in particular, have been working to support their schools, taking their duty of care for the welfare of children and staff very seriously.

We hope that you, like us, have found the excellent briefings and webinars from NGA useful. (Next webinar is 2nd July 'Virtual Governance: Planning for the Autumn term, what Governors need to know').

SIPS Governance have also asked us to acknowledge the amazing work of our governors, noting that their clerks will be up to date on all governance developments and are there to offer their support.

A well deserved 'Thank You' to all Sandwell Governors!

National Governance Association (NGA)

As always, a reminder that as a member of ASGB you also have standard membership of the NGA. The ASGB support officer is currently updating membership for NGA so please be aware that you may receive an email from NGA asking you to reset your password.

Please be assured that NGA do not share your email address with any other party but if you have concerns, please contact the support officer.

ASGB Looking Forward

It will come as no surprise that we will have to postpone our AGM until at least September. Realistically, we may need hold some form of virtual meeting in order to comply with our constitution.

We will of course keep you updated about future meeting dates and welcome suggestions for agenda items but is this a chance to think about how ASGB works in future? Would virtual meetings in some form give more governors an opportunity to join us? Your thoughts please!

Stay safe and well, best wishes, ASGB Joint Chairs Elaine Benbow & Lynn Howard

Contact us via the ASGB website at <http://asgb.org.uk/home/contact>