



HOLLYMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Philippa Jackson Dip.Ed. ATCL. NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Ann Pope B.ED Hons. PG.Dip (SEN). AMBDA

Cambridge Road
Wimbledon SW20 0SQ

Tel: 020 8946 0454

Fax: 020 7349 1886

e-mail: info@hollymount.org

www.hollymount.org

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Dear Parents and carers,

The new academic year is well under way and we felt this would be a good time for an update from the **Hollymount Board of Governors**.

We are delighted to see that the school's excellent academic performance has continued. Whilst the change in assessment criteria means it is not possible to directly compare last year's results with those of the previous year, we do know that Hollymount's ranking in both the borough and the country as a whole has improved. This is a great reflection upon the dedication and sheer hard work of all the staff and the children. Alongside the formal and statutory curriculum requirement, it is wonderful to see how much the school does for the children in the programme of extra-curricular activities, in particular the sporting opportunities and external visits arranged.

The full two-form entry arrangements have clearly bedded in well. Aside from anything else, the increase in staff numbers means that the ethos and spirit of the school is more resilient to individual staff changes.

Governing Body Changes

The governing body has had a few changes of its own as a result of two members moving away and one staff governor on maternity leave. We'd like to put on record how grateful we are to Faye Kimber, Jon Atkin and the Reverend Richard Lane for all the time, effort and, in Richard's case, the leadership they have contributed over the years.

Corinne Phillips, Joe Stone (both co-opted) and Alexandria Howland (staff) have joined the governing body. Corinne and Joe both live locally and bring HR/Personnel and Social Work experience respectively to the Governing body.

The Local Schools Cluster

Looking a little beyond Hollymount's immediate boundary, Hollymount School is part of a local primary schools informal 'cluster'. The benefits to the schools in this cluster from working together are proving invaluable e.g. shared training, calibration of the new assessment methods, staff visits; and as a result the cluster concept has been extended to the governing bodies of the schools involved. We meet once a term



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to share ideas and to discuss how we might plan for changes in government policy. We are already benefiting from this arrangement with joint training events.

Hollymount - Well placed for the Future

Hollymount is very lucky to be in a such a strong academic position as we consider our priorities for the future. However, with budgets remaining extremely tight we must find ways of making an increasingly shrinking pot go further. The Government and local authority make heavy demands on our school, both academically and pastorally, and it is only with the continued strong backing of Governors and parents that Hollymount can remain the excellent school it is today. Thank you for your continued support.

As governors, we never fail to be impressed when we visit the school by all the pupils we meet, who are unfailingly confident, polite, well-mannered and behaved, and so clearly enjoying their learning. It is a genuine delight to be associated with Hollymount.

We welcome any feedback you may have, and if you do, please contact me through the school office. Also, if you see me in or around the school then do say hello, I am always very happy to talk to Hollymount parents.

I have included below a brief description of the role of the governing body together with the list of our members.

Yours sincerely,



**Rob Hatley,
Chair of Governors**



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What is the role of the Board of Governors?

The Department of Education states that a school Governing Body should:

- (a) ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- (b) hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- (c) oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure money is well spent.

The Governors act at a strategic level, seeking to ensure that the school meets its statutory obligations and that it continues to strive towards higher standards in all areas.

For the Head Teacher we aim to be supportive at all times and questioning where necessary.

An important distinction is that the Governors are not involved in the day to day running of the school, which is managed by the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team.

Our Board of Governors has a total of 17 members and is structured to include four Parent Governors (elected by other parents), the Head Teacher, one member of the teaching staff, one representative from the Local Authority and a number of Co-opted Governors who are invited to join from the locality. At present, eight of our governors are parents of current or past pupils and one is an ex-pupil!

Together, our Governors bring a variety of skills and currently we draw on expertise in education, finance, human resources, local government, pastoral care, marketing, research and strategy, special educational needs, as well as teaching positions in other local schools.

All Governors serve a fixed term of four years, after which Parent Governors must stand for re-election by school parents. Local Authority, Staff and Co-opted governors may be asked by the Full Governing Body to continue to serve on an annual basis after their four-year fixed term has ended. A list of current members of the Board of Governors can be found at <http://www.hollymount.org/Governors/> and is also shown below.

Governor	Type	Governor	Type
Joanne Burgess	Associate	Claire Mangrioti	Co-opted
Dr Janko Calic	Parent	Anthony McDonagh	Parent
Cllr Stehen Crowe	Local Authority	Corinne Phillips	Co-opted
Fiona Ford	Co-opted	Ann Pope	DH Co-opted
Rob Hatley	Co-opted	Jane Purchase	Associate
Isabelle Howard	Co-opted	Ben Read	Parent
Alexandria Howland	Staff	Joe Stone	Co-opted
Philippa Jackson	HT ex-officio	Cllr David Williams	Co-opted
Victoria Lacey	Parent		



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