

VWI/ARA

October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

My name is Vikki Williams and I am the Chair of Governors at Brooke Weston Academy. I grew up and went to school in Corby myself and consider it a huge honour to be able to support BWA in this way.



I have been in post for a couple of years now and what an interesting and tumultuous couple of years it has been for our students and all staff at the school. The constant shifts in how the physical layout of the school has had to be organised, one way systems, masks, ventilation, bubbles, online learning, lateral flow testing and Teacher Assessed Grades, all on top of providing first class education and care for students. I think that the school's Senior Leadership Team and entire staffing body has done a tremendous job in keeping on top of things. I am sure that you, like me, are thankful for their continued focus and dedication. So why am I writing to you now? There are 2 reasons:

- 1) To introduce the BWA Governing Body and to let you know about our role.
- 2) To ask if any of you would like to join our friendly Governing Body. I am especially interested in ensuring that our Governing Body is as representative of the entire school community as possible.

What is the role of the BWA Governing Body?

As Governors it is our role to provide support to the school through understanding how it operates. This ranges across multiple areas, from requirements in relation to the Safeguarding of all students, how the Curriculum is represented across the school and how Health and Safety requirements are delivered. We also seek to ensure that the school adequately staffed, that results are as we expect them to be, that all students are given ample opportunities to be the best that they can be regardless of background and circumstances, that attendance is as we would expect and that the high standards expected at BWA are being fulfilled. In the past, a Governor's role has been described as that of a 'critical friend'. The Brooke Weston Trust describes the role as 'eyes on, hands off'. We are available to the Headteacher and staff at the school to offer support, advice, be a sounding board and deal with any exceptional circumstances.

Joining the BWA Governing Body

We are currently a group of 9 Governors, all pretty down-to-earth, passionate about the Brooke Weston Trusts ethos of 'Ambition for All' and keen to provide all students with 'tickets for life'. Some of us (including me) are Parent Governors and have children or a child at Brooke Weston. Some Governors are co-opted, in that I have asked them to join the Governing Body as they bring a specific skills to the role. We also have a staff Governor, which helps with our connection to the school.

We meet 3-4 times a year as a full group for 2 hours with the school's Senior Leadership Team to discuss key topics and review data. In addition, a number of us meet with other leaders in the school on specific topics like Safeguarding, Literacy, Special Educational Needs and Health and Safety. Again, this occurs again 3-4 times per year.

Other commitments include attending school events like plays and Prize Giving and responding to requests from the school for support. In December, we are introducing a Governor's Day where we can all spend time in school (COVID permitting) attending Tutor time, classes, assemblies etc. Further, we have just agreed to have our first optional, informal Governing Body social evening in December.

Full training is given. You don't need to have any experience at all, just a passion to represent your community, support the school and perhaps to learn some new skills along the way. If you are interested please get in touch for an informal chat: vwilliams@brookewestontrust.org

I look forward to hearing from you!

Best Regards



Vikki Williams



Clare Dent
Vice Chair



Emma Goodwin
Governor



Ika Castka
Governor



Matt Reay
Staff Governor



Nic Hanlon
Governor



Ed Harman
Governor



Elizabeth Tulum
Governor



Nick Favill
Governor