



**Hillcrest School**

# ***Governors News***

[www.hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk)

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Dear All

Welcome to the Autumn Term Governor's newsletter. As the new Chair of Governors let me introduce myself

My name is Jacqui Hall. Until 5 years ago I was a Senior Lecturer at Northumbria University, then I took early retirement and now work part-time as an Associate Lecturer in Nursing Studies at Northumbria University, I also work as a Bank Nurse on Neurology at the Royal Victoria Infirmary. Back in 1986 I joined the TA as a Nursing Officer where I am currently a Major. I will be completing my final year in the Army Reserves in 2016. My first involvement with Hillcrest was over 20 years ago when my eldest daughter attended the school and now my grandson is a pupil here. I hope I can be successful in representing you and the Governors as Chair and would encourage all staff, parents and carers to bring any issues they feel need to be discussed by the governors, to our meetings.



My name is Martin Wright, Vice Chair of the Governors and member of the Governing Body since 2013. I have worked in Special Education for over 30 years before retiring as Deputy Head teacher from a large secondary special school in Sunderland. I have also taught in Los Angeles for one year and studied special education at the University of Wisconsin on a one year Rotary Scholarship. Since retiring I've completed a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellowship, looking at employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties. I now volunteer as an adviser for Citizens Advice and also supports witnesses as a volunteer with the Witness Service, as well as being a volunteer coastguard for the past 3 years with the Newbiggin team.



## **What your Governors have been doing this year:**

The Members of the School Governing Body are: Mrs Jacqui Hall (Chair), Mrs Andrea Mead (Head teacher), Mr Martin Wright, Mr Mark Phillips, Mrs Denise Atkinson, Mrs Lisa Gordon, Mrs Susan Mason, Mr Nick Belcher, Mrs Shirley Foster, Mrs Joyce Reid, Mrs Jacqueline Peddie, Ms Paula Brown (Clerk from LA).

It has been an exciting time for us as Governors as we have new members joining the Governing Body and have a huge task to help the School to move forward and develop into a school of excellence. Apart from our School Governor meetings we have had the privilege to join in Learning Walks, school opening ceremonies for the new playground, attending a School Assembly to hand out awards to the pupils and staff, and have attended the school social activities such as the Christmas Lunch and Fair. Members of the Governing body are also responsible for a variety of areas such as Health and Safety and Safeguarding, Leadership and Management, Quality of Teaching, Assessing and Marking and the 6th Form. We also have responsibilities for Finance and Staffing.

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## School Curriculum

During our Learning Walks we have witnessed the changes to the curriculum which have had a very positive affect on the learning and teaching in school. The change to the school day has been noticeable, as the pupils appear to be ready for learning right from the start. The school assembly has encouraged year groups to create their own assembly which shows creative involvement in a variety of ways.

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## Careers Week

This was a very useful time for our 6th Form. As a member of the Armed Forces I was invited to deliver a presentation of what it was like to be a Nurse in Afghanistan. The pupils showed a very positive response to some of the items and topics that were covered in the presentations.

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## Project Based Learning

Once again this has been covered with gusto this term. The pupils have been heavily involved in everything from "Keeping homeless people warm in winter", to looking at the different world religions. A great way to enable all the pupils to interact at all levels in producing contemporary issues affecting them in a variety of ways.

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## Christmas Lunch and Fair

The Christmas Lunch and Fair is a great social event and an excellent way to get the school involved in charitable acts. With help from Parents, Carers, pupils and staff we should be very proud of the contributions made.

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## Lodge Update

The 6th Form Lodge is developing at a rapid pace and will be ready in early 2016. The 6th Form are being involved in creating an outside area around the Lodge to have a pleasant sitting area and possible garden.

We look forward to our new 6th Form Teacher, Mrs Alison Miller, who will be in post soon.

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## School to school support

We are being supported with Percy Hedley and Ponteland Middle School Head Teachers, who have generously given their time, expertise, guidance (and sometimes even their staff) to enable Hillcrest to strive for the Centre of Excellence that we wish to be. We thank them and hope they can continue to give their support to us.