



Dr Andrew Campbell

Dear Governor,

Welcome to this latest newsletter for governors which amongst other things highlights important developments in way the Trust will support the work of Local Governing Bodies in the year ahead and the resources now available to LGBs through Trust personnel and our partner organisations. Further information can be accessed via the governance section of the Trust website.

I am also pleased to report good progress on improving the level of administrative support that all LGBs will receive next year. Please do contact Sarah Mills if you have any queries about this or any other aspect of governance.

Both I and the senior leaders in our schools are grateful for the scrutiny, support and challenge that governors continue to provide to them. It is an invaluable service and it is never taken for granted. Please do accept my best wishes for an excellent summer break.

DR ANDREW CAMPBELL
BROOKE WESTON TRUST

Developments to the way the Trust will be working with its Local Governing Bodies

Changes are being introduced to enhance the way our LGBs operate and are supported. Following suggestions from chairs of governors, governors and a review by the Trust a new series of measures have been put in place to ensure that our LGBs are fully supported and work at their best. The changes are:

- The clerking system will now be centralised so that the Trust provides a clerk for each LGB meeting. This will ensure that all meetings are minuted in the same format and will allow for a more efficient administration procedure. (More information on **page 4**). Agendas will be circulated with plenty of time for governors to read and review.
- Staff from the Trust will work with the Chair of each LGB to develop their agendas. This creates uniformity across the Trust schools and will ensure that key dates from the academic year are taken into consideration. There will still of course remain a personalised feel to each LGB meeting to reflect the different nature of each school.
- Chair of Governors will also receive more information directly from the BWT central team so that they are always kept informed of the latest happenings.
- A regular forum is to be created for Vice Chairs and Chairs of Governors. This will be a way to share expertise and best practice. This forum will sit between the BWT Board of Directors and the LGBs. This is intended to be a flexible forum that will include wider discussions and debates and will also be visited by guest speakers. A member of this forum will also attend the BoD meetings.
- The Trust has become a member of the National Governors Association. The membership comes with access for each Chair of Governors to the NGA website, which is a fantastic resource for keeping up-to-date with legislation changes as well as providing advice and support on a variety of issues commonly faced by LGBs.
- The governors area of our own website has a forum, which we are encouraging governors to use as a means of communicating with each other as well as keeping in contact with Trust staff. It will be moderated by **Sarah Mills** and **Anna Trott**, who will endeavour to help with any queries. (A guide on how to access and use the governors area of the website is on **page 2** of this newsletter).

“ A regular forum is to be created for Vice Chairs and Chairs of Governors ”

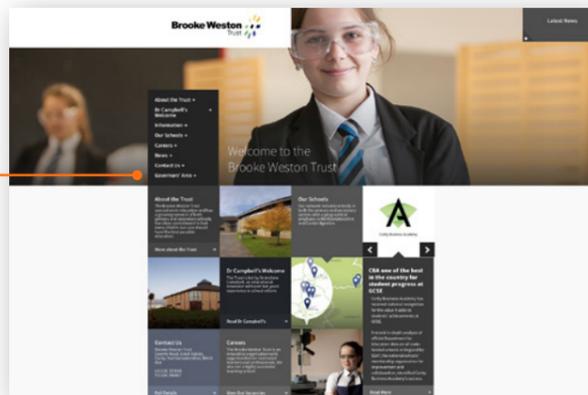


1-4 www.brookewestontrust.org
Guide to using the Governors' Area on the BWT website

The governors section of the BWT website is a valuable resource for you to use. Here you will find all minutes of past meetings, forthcoming agendas and you can also chat to other governors via our forum. Below is a visual guide for how to navigate this area of the website. If you have any further queries please contact **Anna Trott** at **ATrott@brookeweston.org**

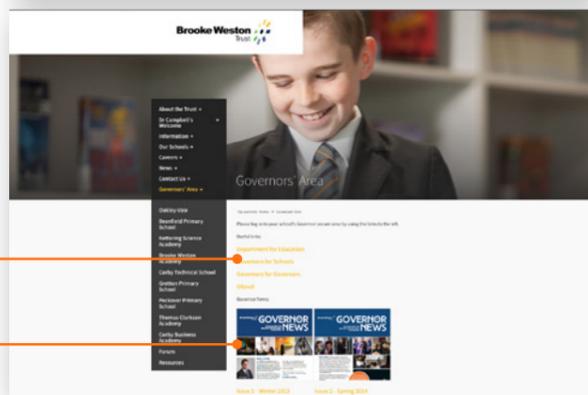
1 **Governors' Area** →

All of the relevant information for governors can be found in the subsection of Governors' Area on the Brooke Weston Trust website.



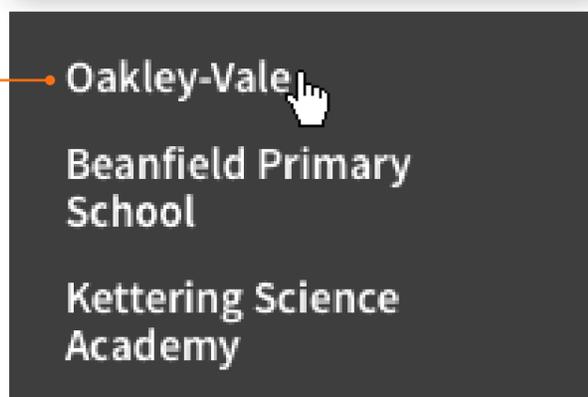
2 Department for Education
Governors for Schools
Governors for Governors
Ofsted

On this page you will find a list of useful and up to date links with relevant information to your role as governor. Also, digital copies of recent governors' newsletters will be online.



3

To go onto your schools' page, click on the school name on the left hand side. This will prompt you to login. (Please contact Sarah Mills/Anna Trott if you are having difficulties logging in). This will then generate further subsections from which you can locate relevant LGB documents, such as agendas and minutes.



4 Another section of the website features a forum where governors are able to discuss governance matters or to request further information/governance advice from the Central Team of Brooke Weston Trust. You will need a username and password for this area. If you do not have one please contact Sarah Mills.



Governance News

New Secretary of State for Education



In the July cabinet re-shuffle **Nicky Morgan MP** replaced the Right Honourable Michael Gove MP as the **Secretary of State for Education**. Mrs Morgan, who has previously been a governor for eight years, will take on the position alongside her current ministerial brief for Women.



The Inspiring Governors Alliance was launched recently by Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools.

We recommend that all of our governors log on to the Alliance website at **www.inspiringgovernors.org** to read the up-to-date and useful information.

The alliance is the result of discussion between the DfE, the National Governors Association and the Education and Employers Taskforce and its aim is to; celebrate the role played by school governors; increase the number of LGBS actively seeking to recruit and develop high caliber governors and increase the support of employers to allow their staff to volunteer as governors.

National Governors Association

We are members of the National Governors Association and with this comes a whole lot of valuable resources and support.

Governors can sign up for the NGA's newsletter through the NGA website and access its resources. If you have any difficulty doing this please contact **Sarah Mills** at **Smills@brookeweston.org**



News from our schools



As ever it has been a really busy few months for schools within the BWT network and there have been some national highlights.

Corby Technical School, which the Trust opened as a Free School in September 2012, was recently awarded an Outstanding grading following its Ofsted inspection. This comes less than two years after opening and makes CTS only the second free school in the country to achieve this education level.

Inspectors praised every aspect, from the first class, supportive teaching to the behaviour of students and the support of teachers.

The governing body was credited with playing a key role in the school's success.

The report said:
“Governors and the Trust have been crucial in the school's success in achieving outstanding outcomes for its students; they are able to draw upon a wealth of expertise from within the trust to provide bespoke support for the school and ensure its future success.”

The LGB was also praised for keeping a sound financial oversight of the school's budget and for its development of the school's performance management of teachers protocol.



This term Principal of Brooke Weston Academy Trish Stringer attended a Downing Street Reception to celebrate excellence in secondary education. She joined education leaders from across the country at the celebration which was hosted by the Prime Minister.

DIARY DATES

September 15th	Beanfield Primary Governors meeting	6.00pm
September 16th	Peckover Primary Governors Meeting	5.30pm
September 18th	Corby Technical School Governors Meeting	4.00pm
September 29th	Gretton Primary Governors Meeting	4.30pm
September 30th	Brooke Weston Academy Governors Meeting	4.00pm
October 2nd	Kettering Science Academy Governors Meeting	4.00pm
October 7th	Thomas Clarkson Academy Governors Meeting	6.00pm
October 8th	Corby Business Academy Governors Meeting	4.00pm
October 12th	Oakley Vale Primary Governors Meeting	6.30pm

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FORUMS

We have scheduled the next Chair and Vice Chair Forums for 12th November from 3pm to 5pm (location Brooke Weston Academy boardroom) and 15th May from 11am to 5pm (location TBC).

Please confirm attendance to Anna Trott nearer to the time.

CLERK UPDATE

Following the recent Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum where the matter of clerking was raised, we are pleased to inform you we have secured seven clerks to support the LGB across the Trust, including **Emma Stephens-Dunn, Jo Fallowell, Mandy Nicholas, Heather Lindley, Anna Trott, Paula Crawford and Sarah Mills**. The clerks will be undergoing corporate training in order to ensure the chair is supported in a more effective manner. Please ensure you send any agenda items two weeks prior to the meeting in order to allow for paperwork to be distributed in a timely manner. The clerks will be available for main governing body meetings.

Training Event This September:

The Trust will be holding an important update training event for all Governors in early September. All are strongly encouraged to attend. The same session will be run twice;

- Corby at Corby Business Academy on Wednesday 3rd September and;
- Wisbech at Thomas Clarkson Academy on Thursday 4th September

“ Relevant reading material will be distributed nearer the time and made available in the Governors’ Area on the Brooke Weston Trust website ”



The training will focus primarily on recent changes to the law regarding the safeguarding and protection of young people and, specifically, the role of the local governing body in ensuring their school is both compliant and offering high quality care. Both events will be led by **Mr Sam Strickland**, Vice Principal at Brooke Weston Academy. Sessions will begin at 5pm and last approximately an hour and a half. Relevant reading material will be distributed nearer the time and made available in the Governors’ Area on the Brooke Weston Trust website. Please confirm your attendance by contacting **Anna Trott** at atrott@brookeweston.org.



Anna Trott has recently replaced Heather Lindley as Andrew Campbell’s PA.

Anna will become familiar to some governors through her role as clerk and is also a point of contact for any queries. To contact Anna email **Atrott@brookeweston.org** or call **01536 560505**.