

## MARCHANT-HOLLIDAY SCHOOL

### GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

2009-2010

Dear Parents,

Yet again it has been a difficult year and unfortunately I believe it will not become easier for a few years yet due to the current economic climate. However the school is well prepared although it has had to take some unprecedented actions which were very carefully considered and not made lightly. The result being that with a decrease in boys in the coming year some staff have had to be released and it goes without saying that we wish them well in the future.

The flexible curriculum which was introduced at the start of the Autumn term 2008 has been extremely successful and whilst there will be a couple of minor refinements for next year, we feel our provision is now much more suited to the needs of the children.

In February we had an Ofsted care inspection and the judgement of 'Outstanding' reflected the hard work of all the staff, a true reflection of the skills, loyalty and dedication of the Senior Management Team, Teachers, Care workers, Domestic staff and all others who combine to give the school the caring ethos that it strives for and reaches.

I must also congratulate all of the boys on how they have worked hard, behaved well (most of the time) and always been a credit to the school but more importantly to themselves. There was a day out to Studland beach a couple of weeks ago and they and the whole staff had a wonderful time catching a record number of 88 crabs!

The school has 24 boarders and 2 day boys coming from 9 Local Authorities over the year.

#### Governors

The Governors who have served during the past year are:-

Mr M Beaumont (Chairman)	Mrs P Midgley
Miss S Cameron (Vice-Chairman)	Mr C Scott
Mr E Dummett (resigned March 2010)	Mr J Stones
Dr C Greenfield	Mrs P Walker
Mr S Henderson	Lt Col S Walker (Retd)
Mrs J McCullum	Cdre W Walworth

During the year we said good-bye to Eric Dummett who although only a governor for three years was greatly involved in school life, championed the staff and worked hard with the SMT to ensure the school complied with all aspects of the law.

The Clerk to the Governors is Mr A A Cuss and as ever we are indebted to him for the support he gives to the Governing Board.

The Clerk and Chairman may be contacted by writing to them at the school address.

### **Main Matters for the Governors during the School Year**

- Visiting the school and developing stronger links with the staff.
- Half-termly National Care Standard 33 inspections to ensure that the high standards of teaching, care and residential provision are maintained.
- Attending the school improvement conference.
- Continuing to respond to the recommendations in the OFSTED report.
- Strategic planning for the future of the school. This has entailed a great deal of thought in how to keep the school a leader in the field in which it operates and how we can expand our opportunities in the current economic climate.
- Maintenance of the school buildings and grounds.
- Staff appointments.
- Financial management of the schools and its assets.

There are 3 main committees:-

#### **The Curriculum and Personnel Committee – Chaired by Miss Cameron**

This deals with all matters related to the boys, the curriculum and personnel plus health and safety.

#### **The Premises and Safety Committee – Chaired by Mr Dummett (until his resignation)**

This deals with the buildings their maintenance and improvement and also the general school environment.

#### **The Finance and General Purpose Committee – Chaired by Mr Henderson**

This takes care of the financial matters pertaining to the school and considers expenditure recommended by the other committees and the Head Teacher.

There are also other ad-hoc committees relating to matters which need to be addressed as and when they arise.

### **Fund Raising**

Mrs Gleadell our fund raiser is retained as a consultant and still liaises with past, present and hopefully future benefactors. Her advice as always is invaluable and she is dedicated to helping the school.

### **Staff**

Appendix 1 at the end of this file gives a list of all staff and Governors at the school.

## Teachers & Teaching Assistants

The teachers and teaching assistants have once again put a great deal of work into helping your children improve the standard of their work and overcome their various difficulties, my thanks to them.

We will be losing John Collins this year who has been our Deputy Head for just over three years and we thank him for his work on the curriculum transition and the aspects of expertise he brought to the school regarding Special Educational Needs.

We are also very sorry to be losing Jane Steel who has been with us since 2001 and has always worked well with our youngest pupils who she would transform from 'whirling dervishes' to pupils able to manage in a classroom situation during their time in her class.

## Care Staff

Mr Spiller and his team have again done a marvellous job to maintain the very high standards that they set themselves. They always succeed as independent inspections regularly verify.

I will also mention Lesley our Matron whose remit is the boy's and staff's health and well being. It is a diverse job and includes not only looking after the boys general health with regard to medication and trips to the doctor and dentist but also liaising with our kitchen manager Pauline Clarke, to ensure that there is a healthy diet and teaching the boys about healthy eating which includes growing the fruit and vegetables in the 'wellies' and pots which can be seen around the playground.

We will be losing Kath Smoker at the end of term who is moving on to a new post working with ASD children at a large school in Dorset. This is a step up the ladder for her and we wish her the very best of luck in her new position. Kath has been with us since 2004.

We are also saying goodbye to Linda Hudson from the care team who has been with us for 6 years and again we thank her for her contribution to the care of the children whilst she has been with us.

## Learning & Behaviour support

Mrs Kemp and Mr Wilson's work in the learning and behaviour support units continues to help the boys develop and improvement their academic and behaviour skills. Inspectors, caseworkers and educational psychologists have been complementary about the boys' progress and the difference in the boys work is very noticeable. Mrs Kemp and Mr Wilson also lend their considerable knowledge to the rest of the staff to help them develop their skills and strategies for helping the children.

## Office Staff

Mrs Urry has continued to grow in to her position as SBM and has undertaken courses to improve her skills to keep up with the changes happening.

Mrs Black has been a valuable asset and we will be sorry to lose her at the end of August.

## Domestic Staff

As ever this is an essential group of staff without whom the school would not function but whom we too often take for granted as they are not 'front line'.

Mrs Pauline Clarke the Kitchen Manager has worked wonders with her staff and the boys enjoy the healthy food provided and visitors often comment on how they wish they had been so lucky to have such tasty food when at school.

During the year we welcomed Justine Holloway and Georgia Dyke to the domestic staff. I am certain that they will all continue to maintain the high standard of cleaning we have at the school.

Paul Holloway joined us as Caretaker/Groundsman and his enthusiasm and drive have been fantastic. He manages the cleaning staff extremely well and they are now a group with new energy and dynamism, achieving even greater results in their work and the courses they attend.

Unfortunately we said goodbye to Brenda Broughton, Dave and Karen Schofield during the year and wish them all well in whatever they do in the future.

## Senior Management Team

I must here thank the senior management team of Mr Kitts, Mr Collins, Mr Spiller, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Urry.

Under Mr Kitts they have grown into a group of people striving to improve and move the school forward and in their aims and targets have succeeded every time.

I would, on behalf of all the Governors, thank Mr Kitts for the tremendous effort he puts into making the school so successful and it shows in how the staff support him. As he has grown into the position of head teacher so has his confidence and skills and he does a fantastic job.

## Staff Continuing Professional Development

This year, staff have undertaken a variety of training courses related to both compliance within the workplace and others directly linked to their work with the pupils.

Training has continued in nationally recognised and accredited courses in Social Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties, PSHE, NVQs, Fire Safety, Safer Recruitment, Child Protection, Poolside Safety, First Aid at Work, Somerset Total Communication and Food Hygiene. We will also be embarking upon whole school ASD accreditation at the end of this term for all staff within the school.

### **Preparation for Transfer to Secondary Education**

We are in close liaison with the schools to which it is planned that the boys will go when they leave. We have worked on integration programmes over the past two terms and good relationships have been built up between us and the designated schools. We do our very best to create positive links after the final annual review and encourage visits from the receiving school as well as being willing to send our staff out to visit new placements with the children.

### **Extra Curricular Activities Links with the Community**

The school works hard at trying to involve the boys in the local community where it is appropriate. Boys attend Templecombe Scouts and Cubs, have participated in Stable management programmes and attended Horse Riding at the RDA. In some cases boys are involved in community sports activities and they also attend church on a Sunday on a voluntary basis when there is a suitable family service. We have played football matches against other schools, been involved in joint music events and visit events with other school groups e.g. 999 safety day and pantomimes.

The boys are encouraged to view these activities as a commitment but because of behavioural issues this is not always possible and it is a dilemma which will unfortunately always be with our boys.

The staff organise many both onsite and offsite activities during evenings and at weekends from which the boys gain enormous benefit. Each boy has a favourite but participates in and enjoys many of them.

### **Standards of Achievement**

Work has been completed to a high standard during the year and as ever there are interesting and varied displays throughout the school. Many boys have made exceptional academic progress from the baseline at which they enter the school and annual assessments across the school have shown great achievement. Congratulations to all boys and staff for the hard work and success.

### **School Security**

School policy dictates that the burglar and fire alarms, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting are all serviced on a regular basis.

Care and teaching staff have hand-held radios at all times when on duty. There is keypad access to buildings and dawn to dusk security lighting. There are also additional security measures in the two houses including microphones and call points on doors.

There have been some hedges replaced and new fences erected to help improve security whilst at the same time not encroaching on the atmosphere of freedom that the school promotes.

### **Attendance**

There have been very few absences this year with the children being generally fit and healthy and enjoying school once they arrive back and get into the swing. Mr Kitts informs me that you are all very good and contact the school when the children are off although there have been a very small number of unauthorised absences of which the LAs keep a record.

### **Closing Comments**

I thank my fellow governors, the Head Teacher, Head of Care and all members of staff for the support they have give me over the last year and their hard work, loyalty and dedication to the school and moreover to the boys.

One must also thank the boys who bring their individual challenges but whom work hard to achieve more than many would expect they could and when they go out of school on a visit leave a lasting impression which is always positive, their good behaviour would shame many of their own age.

I consider it a privilege to be Chairman of the Governing Board at the Marchant-Holliday School and have great pride in the friendships it has given me and of course what it achieves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Beaumont', written in a cursive style.

Michael Beaumont  
Chairman of Governors