



# CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

**Home of Bright Sparks**

Chesswood Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2AA

**Head Teacher: Mr Andrew Jolley**

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Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Chesswood Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to let you all know that we have three new parent governors who will join the Board with immediate effect.

We had three nominations for our three parent governor vacancies. Consequently, no election will be necessary and all nominees are all confirmed as elected unopposed.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the process in the past few weeks, and, in particular, to those who have put themselves forward for election.

Our new governors are:

## New Parent Governor Introductions

The original election biographies submitted to school have been included here from each of our new governors.

### ***Donna Edmonds***

As a key worker, working on foot in the local area, I really feel like I am a member of a community. When I'm outside the school gates at drop off or pick up, this is even more evident to me. I'm quite distinctive and I think most people would recognise me, hopefully for good reasons. I've known lots of you for many years and we have watched our children grow up together.

I want to be a governor because I want to be directly involved in helping our children get everything they can out of their time at school. I am a happy positive person but I also always speak up for what I believe in. I am also not shy or afraid of a challenge and I am used to delivering hard messages.

I have a degree in Childhood and youth studies. I graduated after six years of studying, at the age of 42! This provided me with academic and theoretic knowledge of children, their experiences and their rights but being a member of the local area, the school community and a parent has taught me the practical side of all of this.

I believe every child has the right to a good start in life and a great education and deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. Hopefully we can help them on their way.





## *Danny Kearney*

I am a father to a child at Chesswood and have two more children who will, no doubt, follow in his footsteps. My own education was disjointed, disrupted and blinkered by targets and statistics and as a result I fell between the gap in the chairs and needed to work particularly hard to find my space in the world.

I support wholeheartedly the need to educate our young people and to continue that education for a lifetime, it is after all our responsibility to do so, however I do believe there is more we can do in support of those who often find themselves left behind or marginalised by a system that doesn't always work for them.

I understand that education is no longer the same as that of my own and that Chesswood strives to support individualism and creativity in support of those entrusted to their care. I will be a part of that journey in support of my own and others children, I will ask the questions of Chesswood senior leadership team and be in a position to challenge, support and influence the pathways for our young people.

I have many years of experience across military service, work in education at college level and within major construction industry at senior levels and I truly understand the need to nurture not only intelligent and academically but also support emotional intelligence and stoic resilience for everything else in the world where there isn't an answer in a book or on the internet.

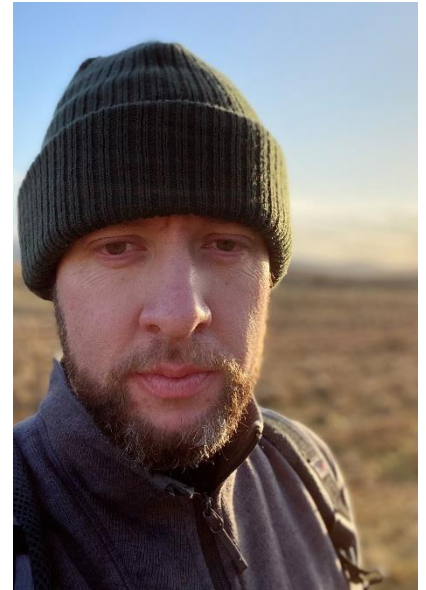
I will bring to the role;

Honesty and Integrity.

The tenacity and courage to ask questions and seek real answers no matter how hard.

My knowledge, experience and training in mental health, safeguarding and safety.

My own creativity and enthusiasm for change and improvement.





## **Beth Liassides**

Every child matters. Every child deserves an education. This statement underpins what I believe and what I did for a career.

I worked as an English and Drama secondary school teacher for ten years, and then moved to work as a Special needs teacher.

During my varied twenty year career I was promoted and therefore have both pedagogical and managerial experience to bring to role of Governor.

Helping my pupils to love learning, understand they all had something unique to share and developing their self confidence was my motivation.

I enjoyed being part of the launch of the Gifted and Talented programme which was rolled out in 1997. I also helped to create a book of book reviews with a link primary school. As part of this I wrote to a range of authors, including Jaqueline Wilson and Jean Ure, who wrote a review of their favourite book.

Jean then visited the school and she talked to all the children.

Giving children chances, which don't just 'happen', was really important to me.

That is why I loved the combination of being in charge of KS4 English and Work Experience. I ran an annual careers fair; inviting business leaders to give talks to all of the pupils. Plus I organised a work experience placement for all too.

For this work I helped the school achieve an Investors in Careers award.

Whilst working in special needs I also set up workplace opportunities for all pupils, some outside in businesses and some internally. Some of my special needs pupils continued to work at their placement beyond their work experience block.

The confidence and transferrable skills gained from this was something quite brilliant. It was lovely to work closely with the parents and carers on this too.

Another thing I brought into the Special Needs school was a Massage and Meditation programme. We are all aware now of the need to be mindful of our mental health and of the mass range of meditation apps now available. I brought this to my school in 2009.

I have a lot to offer as a parent governor, as detailed here. To be able to help with the brilliant work done at Chesswood would be my privilege.



I am pleased to welcome our new colleagues to the Board and look forward to working with them over the next three years.

Best wishes,

Liz Dolby

Chair of Governors