19 February 2022

Newport Girls' High School Academy Trust

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Governors

In March 2022, two of our parent governors will reach the end of their tenure on our governing body. We therefore seek to recruit two parent governors to join our experienced and committed team of Trustees. The period of tenure is normally four years and can extend beyond the time your child leaves the school until the end of the tenure period.

The role is voluntary and requires a commitment of around six hours every month between September and July. Meetings take place on up to ten nights a year and are nearly always scheduled on Mondays from 6pm-9pm. These meetings are either Full Board Meetings or smaller committee meetings (either 'Curriculum & Personnel' or 'Finance & Buildings'). We expect governors (or Trustees as they are known to the DFE) to prepare for meetings by reading papers in advance. The role of a governor is to support but also challenge school leaders when necessary. Ideally governors will also support me as Headteacher with in-school activities such as interviewing for key staff positions or attending events/fixtures as a school representative.

Whilst any parent can stand as a potential parent governor, there are some national regulations which must be adhered to. The school must undertake a full DBS enhanced disclosure and a Section 128 director check for anyone who is to be appointed to the Board. In addition, trustees must not:

- be the subject of a bankruptcy restriction or interim order
- be subject to a Company Directorship disqualification
- have been removed from the office of charity trustee by the Charity Commission
- have been a teacher whom the Secretary of State has deemed unsuitable to work with children
- be barred from regulated activity with children
- be disqualified from working with children or providing childminding services
- be disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee by the SoS
- have been sentenced to 3+ months in prison in the five years
- have received a prison sentence of two+ years in the last 20 years
- have ever received a prison sentence greater than 5 years
- have been fined for causing a nuisance on a school's premises during the last five years
- refuse to complete a DBS check
- fail to attend three consecutive meetings (once appointed) as this can lead to removal from the Board.

To be a Parent Governor nominee you must be the parent or legally recognised guardian of a pupil currently on roll at Newport Girls' High School.

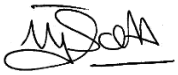
The Chair of Governors has recently commissioned an audit of current Trustees' professional backgrounds and skills. Nominations can be received from any parent who meets the criteria above, but the Board would particularly welcome applications from those with a background in one of; Finance, HR/Organisational Development, Marketing, Estates, Facilities or Health & Safety. In addition, our student population has widened considerably in the past five years and we are keen that our governing body mirrors this. Whilst every parent is welcome to apply, applications from nominees from under-represented ethnicity backgrounds would help us to achieve greater diversity. In the event that more candidates come forward than places allow, a parental ballot will be held and further details will follow after the closing date for nominations.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a nominee, please visit this webpage to register your details. You are also asked to upload a statement of up to 100 words which will be shared with parents if a ballot is necessary.

As Headteacher of a successful, outstanding yet constantly evolving and developing school, it is very important to me to have a sounding board of parent governors who can represent not only the views of other parents, but also be comfortable making larger decisions to drive the school forwards. Some of the decisions governors have to make are not easy, especially with the limited finances offered to schools; confidentiality is very important as is the ability to keep an open mind and reflect on decisions prior to voting. This enables us to keep a sense of perspective and to make decisions to benefit the majority (if not all) students, not least after two difficult years with Covid19. I hope that you may consider volunteering to make a sustained and rewarding contribution to the future success of Newport Girls' High School.

The closing date for nominations is **Monday 7 March 2022 at 4pm**. If you have any questions about the role, please contact headteacher@nghs.org.uk in the first instance. I can happily refer you to one of our current Governors if your query necessitates this. Please note that emails are likely to be answered on 28th February as I am away from school for most of this half-term week.

Yours faithfully



Mr M J Scott
Headteacher
For and on behalf of the Chair & Trustees of Newport Girls' High School