

13 October 2021

Dear parents, carers and friends

I would like to introduce myself to you all as the newly-elected Chair of the Governing Body at The Norwood School. I have been one of the school's Governors for the last 3 years, and have served as Vice-Chair of Governors and Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee.

About me. I grew up in Scotland, and after working abroad moved to London in 2005. I'm a south London resident, with a six year old son in a Lambeth school, and work as an in-house lawyer at British Telecommunications.

Norwood's performance. While we have all faced two years of turmoil and uncertainty, the Governing Body was extremely pleased with last year's GCSE, A level and BTEC results, and with the progress of students across a range of subjects. The popularity of our school is a testament to the hard work, dedication and passion of our staff in making The Norwood School such an exceptional place to learn.

Covid-19. The past two years have been on any measure an exceptional time. We have all been affected by Covid-19, and I want to start by recognising the efforts of all staff in keeping the school running at this critical time. As governors we have been impressed by the resilience of our students, and also the vital role of parents and carers in supporting them. It has been wonderful to see the school fully open to all students as the start of the autumn term, and we were pleased to see good attendance at the school's recent open evenings.

Our role as governors. We support and, where necessary, challenge the school's senior leadership team and staff across a number of key areas, including pupil welfare, progress and achievement, finance and budgets and staff development. We do this so we can have confidence that the school is on track to meet its strategic objectives.

Governor visibility. It is my intention that governors will be a visible presence in the life of the school. We have moved some of our meetings online so that our visits to the school can focus on meeting staff and students. This will better enable governors to fulfil our role in supporting the school to continue to provide a friendly and engaging environment for students.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to our previous Chair, Richard Curran Crawley. He has shown enormous commitment to the school particularly during the pandemic. On behalf of all governors I would like to thank him for his work with The Norwood School, and I am pleased he will remain with us as a governor to share his expertise and insights.



Russell Hunter, Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body of The Norwood School