



Chepstow School

Governors

Report to Parents

2009-2010

This is my second year as Chair of Governors at Chepstow School and once again I am pleased to present the Governor's Annual Report to Parents/Guardians.

The report is presented under four main categories that represent the Governor Sub - Committees:- Finance and Premises, Teaching and Learning, Community and Leisure and Personnel. There will also be a report on Examination results, attendance and general information relating to the School in the last year.

The main Governing body met 7 times last year in total, excluding the various sub group meetings.

I would also like to remind everybody of our website at www.chepstowschool.com which provides an abundance of information and data, including school prospectus, guides and booklets, term dates, exam dates and many news items. Please have a look!

Thank you for supporting our school and your children as they progress through school life, and on your behalf, I would like to thank the skilled and dedicated teaching and support staff that we, as Governors are delighted to work with. Once again, between all of us and especially our children, we have achieved excellent exam results and developed a great bunch of young men and women".

Craig Bridgeman
Chair of Governors

Chepstow Comprehensive School Finance and Premises committee

This Governors' committee also includes the Bursar and representation from the Leadership Group. Each year the priority is to agree the Budget and recommend this for adoption by the Governing Body. As a minimum we meet on a quarterly basis to monitor actual performance against Budget, to consider other financial matters effecting the school, and to agree the annual programme of premises maintenance and improvement, paying particular attention to health and safety issues.

During the Academic year to August 2010 the following premises works were completed: -

- Re-flooring of all corridors
- External redecoration of the admin and teaching blocks
- Internal redecoration of all corridors, the restaurant and arts hall
- Provision of interactive white boards for the majority of teaching rooms

Regrettably the optimism expressed by Governors in last year's report about the school's short term financial position was short lived and, as has happened previously, we were unable to set a budget for the Financial Year to 31 March 2011 [in effect this means we were unable to produce a forecast which did not result in a deficit although budgeting figures were produced for Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)].

With in-year expenditure for the year to 31 March 2011 expected to exceed income by some £290k, the reserves of £154k brought forward have been used and an end of year deficit of £50k is now expected (reduced from a forecasted deficit of £136k earlier in the Budget year). Ideally the curriculum would be designed and delivered within the available budget, however, timing differences in the Budget (Financial) and the Academic year mean there is often a mis-match between student numbers and funding. For this budget year and the next there will be a significantly higher number of students in the Sixth Form for whom funding is not received until towards the end of the budget year highlighting the mis-match. Of course the converse can also occur and in those years' the school benefits. Setting the school budget is not an exact science.

Despite the above it should be noted that the Governing Body has approved a three year Recovery Plan for the school's finances which is currently being considered by MCC.

In the longer term, our hopes that the school would benefit from the "21st Century Schools Initiative" were dashed and with the probability that Chepstow will not have a new school for at least 5 years.

In view of the above, some additional refurbishment to the premises was planned but could not take place as priority was given to curriculum needs, however, thanks to additional funding from MCC's "Director of Children and Young People" (formerly known as "Life Long Learning and Leisure"), we were able to undertake

external redecoration of the Diamonds area. Moreover, we are pleased to report that refurbishment of the four ground floor toilets is now complete thanks to external funding from MCC and to the diligence of Ian Roberts, the Bursar, who has pushed the project along from the start. From our own maintenance budget we were able to refresh the redecoration of the corridors and apply an easy clean topcoat that will preserve their appearance and enable easier cleaning.

Finally, the end of Financial Year 2009/2010 Statement for the School is attached as an appendix.

Community and Leisure Committee

As the Community and Leisure Committee we are delighted, once again, that our links with Chepstow and the surrounding community, go from strength to strength, with the school being an integral part of the town.

This year, in particular, we saw:-

The Bungalow

We had permission from the local authority for 'a change of use' for the former Caretaker's bungalow. The Nurture group, Youth Worker, Learning Mentor and Behaviour Co-ordinator are based in the bungalow and students have timetabled lessons in the specially adapted rooms.

Sporting Achievements

The summer Netball and Rugby tours to Australia went very well and our students proved to be fine ambassadors for the school.

The new sporting year got off to a fine start with rugby, netball and hockey teams all actively involved in fixtures. Yr 10 GCSE students went away on an Outdoor Pursuits week, which contributed to their coursework.

The 5x60 sports programme continued to develop and there are now up to 10 clubs running, such as badminton and golf.

We introduced an optional Sports kit this year which can be purchased via a link on the school website. This includes a hoodie, anorak and a skort! (combined skirt and shorts).

Traffic on Welsh Street

Several joint meetings were held at the Dell with Mr Evans, Head of the Dell Primary School. We met with parents and local Councillors regarding the traffic issues on Welsh street, i.e. traffic management, parking and students' safety. The local authority processed a bid to the Welsh Assembly proposing significant changes to Welsh Street, such as pavement-widening and reviewing access to and from Chepstow School and Leisure Centre.

Events:

Our students continue to do well in extra curricular activities – a group of our Yr 8 students won through to the National Finals of a Police Quiz finishing a very commendable 4th and another group of Yr 8 students came second in a 'Faraday Engineering Challenge' narrowly missing out on first place.

The number of events at the school continued to grow and to accommodate this we employed a member of staff exclusively responsible for organising and coordinating the events – Mrs Morag Conlon.

School Production : Wizard of Oz

A thoroughly enjoyable and charming production, which involved huge numbers of students, including year 5 students from Pembroke and the Dell.

Some of the other events held during the year were:

- Year 13 Awards Evening
- Roald Dahl Activity Day
- Year 12 Induction evening
- Yr 7 residential trips
- 'How Your Children Learn' evening for Yr 7
- Year 7 thinking skills sustainable development day
- Open Days and Open Evenings
- Remembrance Service at the St Mary's Church
- Chepstow Showcase
- Parents' Evenings
- Yr 12 Certificate Presentation
- Christmas Concert
- Charity Concert in school
- Eisteddfod
- Yr 9 Options Interviews
- Annual Spring Concert
- Ski trip and Football trip
- Yr 8 Oscar Night
- HE Day & Evening
- Art Exhibition
- Alumni evening
- Yr 10 work experience (2 weeks)
- Creative Arts day & evening
- Year Group Awards Ceremonies
- Yr 6 Induction day & evening

Particular mention should also go to the Oscar evening, Murder Mystery evening, Art Exhibition and Creative Arts Evening, which were all excellent and well supported. The Alumni Evening on June 24th was meticulously organised, with a guest appearance from Chepstow Male Voice Choir, but there were a disappointing number of attendees. It is hoped to try something different next year.

Personnel Committee

The committee met formally on 4 occasions.

Key Decisions made during the year

- Rev Blanchard was elected as chair of the Personnel committee.

The following staff changes were made during 2009/2010

We bid farewell to Mike Rees (Assistant Headteacher) who retired in December 2009, and he has been replaced by Victoria Duke.

Zoe Elsmore and Carrie Sturgess returned to work following their maternity leave. Irene Davies and Alison Lloyd-Pearce both went on maternity leave in the summer of 2010. Alison has indicated that she will be taking a year's maternity leave so a replacement, Amy Evans, is in place. Laura Deavell will take on the Head of Welsh role.

One member of staff retired early in August 2010, having been on long term sick leave (Mr Rowland Morgan, ICT teacher). Sally Gower-Fox and Emma Knight both left for other schools.

6 Teaching and Learning Assistants were made redundant at the end of summer term (July 2010). 4 of the TLAs have found new jobs and 1 is currently covering a position within the school. The number of TLAs at the school could and subsequently did increase when funding was allocated to Sixth form students.

Proposals for the new school year (2010 – 2011) are to replace Emma Knight and to employ another teacher on a 1 year contract to cover the part-time vacancy left by Sally Gower-Fox. An additional Maths teacher will be employed on a 1 year contract to fulfil curriculum needs.

Virginia Stone took up the post of Office manager following the resignation of Clare Bower who moved out of the area.