

## Welcome to the Summer 2 Newsletter

Welcome to the Cheshire West Governance Association newsletter for the end of the summer term. We hope you are all well and find the information contained useful and informative. If you have any feedback, please let us know by emailing [cwgovernanceassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cwgovernanceassoc@gmail.com). In the meantime, we wish you all a happy and safe summer.

### CWGA Governance Awards

The first annual CWGA governance awards were presented (virtually) following our AGM on 25th June.

The winner of the Chair of the Year Award was Richard Strachan from Darnhall Primary. Richard was nominated by Sarah Tomlinson, Head at Darnhall who said

*"Richard is an exceptional Chair of Governors who has worked in this volunteer role for 23 years taking the role of Chair for almost 14 years. He has such a passion for ensuring the local community have a school that is constantly improving and offers the best education for pupils ages 2-11 including a high proportion of SEND and vulnerable children. He is supportive yet challenging as a chair and thinks about the well-being of school leaders and staff. He is very well-known and respected by staff, pupils, families and his colleague Governors.*

*Parental engagement and community links is something Richard actively seeks to improve. We work hard to raise the aspirations of our children and families through a range of strategies. Richard just wants the very best for each and every child."*



The runner up was John Armstrong from Barrow C of E Primary School, who was nominated by L Wainwright at Barrow, who in her nomination included that John has provided outstanding leadership and an exceptional commitment to the school, showing incredible support and guiding the school through a wide variety of situations with the best interests of the school at heart.

In his acceptance, John outlined the huge commitment that colleagues on governing bodies put into their responsibilities and duties and that whilst the role can be time-consuming, it is never short of rewarding.

If you have a governing body, Chair, or Clerk that you feel should be nominated for next year's awards, please let us know by emailing [cwgovernanceassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cwgovernanceassoc@gmail.com)

# AGM Update



As current circumstances continue to pose new challenges, the AGM of the Association took place virtually on 25th June and was followed by a presentation and question answer session from Emma Balchin, Director of Professional Development for the NGA. A copy of the presentation was sent to all members of CWGA following the meeting.

At the AGM, Janet Myers was elected as Chair for a further year, Chris Korral as Vice Chair, Debbie Tomkinson as secretary and Andrew Canham as Treasurer.

Sam Newey has retired from the committee after a number of years of service and we thank her for her work and support and wish her well for the future.

We are delighted to welcome Hilary Berry to the Executive Committee.



Janet Myers



Chris Korral



Debbie Tomkinson



Andy Canham

If you are interested in joining our executive committee, we would love to hear from you. We generally meet each half-term (although virtually at the moment) with regular attendance from staff within Cheshire West and Chester Children's and Young People's Services. Our aim is to provide school governors, trustees and members within Cheshire West with an interesting and informative support network and to develop the professionalism of governance within the local area.

If you are interested or would like further information, please contact us on [cwgovernanceas-soc@gmail.com](mailto:cwgovernanceas-soc@gmail.com)



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## Meet Our Newest Member—Hilary Berry

I believe that every child/young person has an entitlement to quality learning experiences that lay the foundation stones on which he or she can build a future. Learning empowers, it provides the necessary knowledge, concepts skills and discipline to equip a child to grow into a person who is able and free to make positive life choices. I believe that learning is a 'Life Long' activity and encourage adults to be active in their own learning and the learning of their children.

I endeavour to encourage individuals to respect and care for others and I work towards giving children, young people and adults a high level of self-esteem and pride in their emotional, social and intellectual achievements.

My beliefs drive my voluntary activity as a Trustee and Governor. My efforts are directed to influencing and supporting school policy and practice, with the purpose of improving the learning and life opportunities for children and their families.

I have significant experience in the school sector which includes being a parent and grandparent, a Member, Trustee, Governor, in different settings over a 27-year period, I have been a Head teacher for 19 years and been Chair of Cheshire Association of Headteachers for 4 years.

During this time, I have also been a consultant and have influenced local and national strategy to improve the quality of children's experiences & opportunities, and have spearheaded school improvement with a passionate approach towards disadvantage/SEND. Amongst others, I have worked with Cheshire West Education Improvement Board, LSCB, Children's Trust, Communication Council and have developed a charity which delivers full day care in 3 children's centres.

I look forward to learning and working with fellow trustees and governors.



## Upcoming events

***To be completed***