

FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE WEST GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION

Notice has been given that the AGM will be held virtually on **Thursday 24th June at 7pm.**
To book a place, see full details of the AGM & networking event, on page 6....

*****RECRUITING FOR NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS*****



CWGA is run by seven volunteers, supported by our paid administrator. Several of our volunteers will be retiring at the AGM and others are due to retire at the AGM in 2022. We are urgently looking for serving governors, trustees and clerks to join us to help with the running of our association. The role is for a three-year term of office.

The association has been very successful in recent years so you would be joining a thriving and financially stable organisation:

- Over 80% of schools in Cheshire West and Chester are members of Cheshire West Governance Association.
- Services to members have continued and increased in lockdown, with the association hosting six virtual events to date.
- Networking events are well attended, with an average of about 30 attendees at each event.
- The association's first virtual conference was attended by more than 100 governors, trustees, senior leaders and clerks.
- Feedback from events is consistently extremely positive. At the last virtual networking event, 100% of attendees agreed that they had found the event useful and would attend a future event.

We are looking for:

- Enthusiastic governors, trustees and clerks from any type of school and with any level of experience who will innovate and increase engagement with governing bodies and trust boards
- Governors, trustees and clerks who are willing to take or share responsibility for an area of work, eg newsletter production, conference organisation

We can offer:

- A financially stable organisation with a strong membership
- A successful but flexible programme of events
- A place at the heart of CWAC governance and system leadership
- A chance to shape and improve governance in CWAC
- Free conference attendance in exchange for helping with the event

Interested? Want to find out more? Or do you just want to go ahead and receive a self nomination form! Then please contact us via email on cwga@cwgovernanceassoc.co.uk



A brief catch-up of past events.....

January - CWGA Secondary & Post-16 Virtual Networking Event

Following feedback from secondary governors, trustees and clerks that they would like a chance to network with other secondary colleagues, CWGA held its first secondary only event back in January. The event was informal and allowed attendees to share experiences and ideas. Topics discussed included virtual governance, online learning, assessment, data, staff wellbeing, stakeholder feedback, and the impact of Covid-19 on school finances. Governors shared resources that they had found useful and agreed to swap email addresses so they could discuss arranging joint training. One attendee wrote, "Really good event, definitely something to be repeated! Great to speak with other Secondary governors and to hear best practice and opinion.". Thank you to all who attended. We look forward to catching up with you again soon.

February - Heads', Chairs' & Clerks' Virtual Conference

Over 100 delegates attended our virtual conference back in February! Focusing on the global pandemic and the resulting lockdowns resulted in a period of rapid change for schools and has taught us new ways of working. Our conference aim was to inspire attendees to seize opportunities, focus on best practice and share positive stories. All of our keynote speakers delivered on the brief, and the feedback speaks for itself!

The online CWGA led conference was incredibly useful and provided a thoughtful moment of reflection for leaders.

It was important we heard the learning we have all undertaken in this virtual world we currently inhabit, with an eye on how the ripples could well be felt for a long while to come.

The speakers gave the conference validity, building from the knowledge and passion for her topic that Emma has as the Chief Exec for the NGA, taking us through the grounding and focused updates Andrew Cook had for us and ending with the inspiring Mick Waters.

Thanks for giving us the virtual space to gather and share, reflect and consider next steps.

Samantha Myers-Whittaker, Head at Archers Brook SEMH School

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in organising the conference. I found it both informative and enjoyable and the speakers were to be congratulated. As are your colleagues who selected them.

Professor Mick Waters was inspirational. He had me wishing I was back in the classroom again so that I could deliver some of his ideas!

"Thank you " again. I look forward to the next conference.

*Vera Farrow, Chair of Trustees
Over Hall Community School*

This was an extremely well prepared and run conference which highlighted some of the key areas of challenge facing our schools and governing boards at his time. The keynote speakers, Emma Knights, Andrew Cook and Mick Waters were engaging and relevant. The combination of these speakers led to a diverse range of input which was both thought provoking and reassuring at a time where stress and anxiety are at an all-time high.

Emma, whilst reviewing what we have learned, provided some interesting statistics relating to time spent on priorities and which allowed us to both consider and reflect on practice within our schools, whilst Andrew provided some feedback around 'What's working well' gleaned from Ofsted visits during the pandemic. He also directed us to seven key areas to consider and provided an oversight of what we are currently expecting to see happen with inspections in the near future.

Mick waters provided a powerful and somewhat emotional look at the role we have as governors in ensuring our young people are able to return to school effectively though understanding learner needs and building reliance through flexibility and forward thinking. He summarised this with a simple quote; "The further you think in front, the easier it is to adapt" and provided a 5 stage model for planning effectively between now and the summer of 2022.

Rob Pullen / Sue Tomlinson, CWAPH Chairs



A brief catch-up of past events.....

March - Governing in the Virtual World Networking Event

Our March event gave attendees the opportunity to discuss lessons learned from lockdown, share views on remote meetings and monitoring, and how to be a good link governor in the virtual world. Delegate discussion took place in breakout rooms and the final plenary was noted on a whiteboardall done virtually via Zoom! Here is some feedback from the chat function....

"it was very beneficial to learn from other boards. I have picked up some ideas, especially around the informal side of governance" "really found the event very informative and the breakout rooms were excellent ways of networking"

April - Professor Mick Waters 'The Professional Imperative'

CWGA were pleased to welcome back Professor Mick Waters to speak to our members following his keynote speech at our February conference. The session was aimed at Headteachers' but was open to all Deputies and Governors too.

The session looked at what really matters in terms of leading a school: giving children and young people a learning experience that improves their life chances. There was reference to our efforts to move on from the lockdown, with a broader outlook on getting back to first principles...and asking ourselves

- **How do we make learning that is irresistible?**
- **What can we do to ensure that children make progress through worthwhile and engaging activity?**
- **How can children be taught to be proficient, to master concepts, ideas, and skills?**

The feedback from the chat room speaks for itself....

This is so useful from a Governors perspective.this morning has been brilliant,

This is so inspiring - a great help for Governors

This has been inspirational and has made me laugh and smile and feel positive so thank you.

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Thank you for this event, very informative and lots of great reminders and new aspects to consider.

Wonderful session. Thank you Mick and CWGA.



Does your Governing Body or a member of your Governance team go above and beyond for your school? Do they deserve to be recognised with an Award?

We recognise the incredible work being done across CW&C, by people who give their time voluntarily, in order to make a difference to our schools. We think you will agree that their contribution is invaluable and so we invite you to nominate a Governing Body or an individual, for one of our 2020/21 CWGA Governance Awards. ***The closing date has been extended until Monday 24th May, with winners being announced at our AGM on 24th June 2021.***

If you feel you know someone deserving of that extra recognition then nominate them for one of the three categories. We know how busy everyone is so we have made the process super simple. All you need to do is pick the category from below and complete a nomination form with details of the person or group you wish to nominate, supported with some words as to why you have nominated them .

(email cwga@cwgovernanceassoc.co.uk for a nomination form).

Cheshire West Governance Association Award Categories 2020/21

CWGA Governing Board of the Year

CWGA Chair of the Year

CWGA Clerk or Governance Manager of the Year

CWGA Governing Body of the Year - Celebrating a governing body who have shown great commitment and made a significant impact on the school. This award will go to the Governing Body that can demonstrate outstanding performance during 2020-21 academic year.

CWGA Chair of the Year - Celebrating a Chair who has demonstrated outstanding leadership

CWGA Clerk or Governance Manager of the Year - Recognising an individual who has shown dedication and commitment as Clerk to Governors or Governance Manager

The Awards are open to all education boards in Cheshire West & Chester, including those within the private and further education sector. Judges will be looking for evidence to strengthen the nomination i.e.

- ***Outstanding leadership and performance especially if through adversity***
- ***Strong and creative initiatives that have enabled the school to improve and thrive***
- ***Impact on the education experience***

******BOOK NOW****BOOK NOW******

CWGA post AGM Networking Event

Reviewing your boards effectiveness

Would you like the opportunity to be with other governors' and look collaboratively at the guidance based around board self-assessment including the 20 questions that boards should be asking themselves...

<https://www.nga.org.uk/getmedia/028dfea6-8313-4339-96ed-fa61e0769fe4/Twenty-questions-second-edition-2015.pdf>

Whilst also discussing governing board skills matrix and impact statements?

Then join us on Zoom at our post AGM event on

Thursday 24th June 2021 at 7pm

The important bit! This is a free event for CWGA member schools*

All your Governors' including your clerk or governance professional are welcome to join this event.

The cost for non-school members* is £20.

Please complete your booking on Eventbrite choosing one of the following 2 options;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cheshire-west-governance-association-agm-virtual-event-tickets-153955169055>

Free Ticket: I am from a CWGA member school

£20 Ticket: I am from a CWGA non-member school

**We would respectfully ask that you check your member status if you are unsure before booking a place CWGA@cwgovernanceassoc.co.uk*