

Wednesday 25th June 2025

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I wanted to let you know that this summer I am stepping down from being Chair of Governors of your school. Although the phrase may have lost some of its impact due to casual overuse, for me it really has been an honour and a pleasure to have held this position over the last ten years. I have been able to work with skilled and dedicated member of staff on both the academic and the support side, along with two outstanding Heads, Katherine Haynes and Rose Hardy. Being Chair has allowed me to meet with generations of Lyonian pupils and enjoy their achievements and enthusiasm for life.

This combination of skill, dedication and enthusiasm has allowed us to improve the structure, character and performance of the School. We would always like to do more and move faster but circumstances have sometimes dictated a more cautious and gradualist approach. None of this would have been possible without your continuing commitment to your children's education for which I am very grateful.

As a Governing Body, we realise the considerable sacrifices you make to secure an excellent education for your children. We, therefore, seek to deliver that level of education as efficiently as possible, concentrating on the essentials of teaching excellence, quality of pastoral care and breadth of co-curricular activities, avoiding unnecessary frills or "vanity projects". Almost all the recent fee increases are attributable to cost pressures beyond our control, whether it be hikes in energy prices or Government action (e.g. imposition of VAT, increases in employer's NIC, removal of business rate exemption and increases in the London Living Wage). We have sought to mitigate the impact of these cost factors on your children's fees by further efficiency measures but sadly it has not been possible to mitigate them anywhere as much as we would have liked.

I am confident that my successor, Neil Enright with his long and distinguished record in education will, along with Rose Hardy and her staff, be able to meet the challenges ahead and continue to improve your school. I will continue to follow the fortunes of the School with affection and interest.

Stet Fortuna Domus.

Yours sincerely



Giles Goodfellow KC
Retiring Chair of John Lyon School Governors

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