

Director: Mr Trevor Cristin

Romans 15 v13

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy spirit.'

Dear Colleagues,

May I wish you a happy New Year! Already the start of 2022 may seem a long time ago as we all face the challenges and dilemmas of the past three weeks. We are called to be a people of perseverance and you may have felt tried and tested in that virtue – and your headteacher most certainly will have!

So, I begin by expressing the thanks of the Diocese for your continued service as a governor and encourage you to press on. Paul writing to the Philippians encouraged them:

*"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But **one** thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I **press on** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Chapter 3.13-15)

Our goals may be many and varied but will probably include:

- The good of our staff – there is much talk these days about their wellbeing.
- The education of the children – to provide the best and multifaceted learning environment, teaching and learning as well as outcomes.
- (For me this includes) serving God faithfully and effectively in a calling that I seek to pursue throughout the whole of life and for His glory.

Governance E-bulletin

I hope this new monthly email bulletin will provide some stimulus to your governance. Please forward this to all governors. It is for the whole governing board.

Upcoming Governor Development

I have already held the first **Governor Training session**. One governor wrote afterwards: *"Thank you so much for the excellent safeguarding for governors training this evening. I have attended so many safeguarding courses over the past 30 years, but I learnt a great deal this evening particularly with reference to the role of a Governor"*.

I hope that this programme of courses will meet many of your needs as Church School Governors. It is intended to supplement other training you will be accessing and focus specifically on how you can become even more effective in your role within a Church school context. Please do let me know if there are other themes or areas it would be helpful to include either in this period or beyond.

In the e-bulletin you will see we are focusing on **safeguarding**. This course is for you, whether because you are in your first year of governance or as a refresher. We will be focusing specifically on what it means in a Church School context. Mark the date **5th May** and book online.

Finally,

I am here to support governance, so it would be good to hear from you. Advice, training for your governance board and anything that will support you is why I am here. As ever please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or worries at mike.simmonds@chichester.anglican.org.

I am praying for you as we continue to serve our school communities and adapt to the circumstances we currently face.

Very best wishes,



Mike Simmonds
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