NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Wednesday 18th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Walthamstow School for Girls has one vacancy for a parent or carer to serve as a school governor. I hope you will consider putting yourself forward. Please find below some frequently asked questions which I hope will give you an insight into the role, commitment and election process.

What is the role of the governing body?

The Governing Body's role is the strategic and financial oversight of the school and ensuring that students receive a high-quality education which prepares them for the next stage of their education. This includes planning for future development and improvements, but not the day-to-day management of the school. For more information on school governance, please see the Governing Body section of the school website.

What should I do if I would like to stand for election as a prospective governor?

If you would like to stand as a candidate, please complete the reply slip below and return it to the school no later than **12 noon on Monday 30th September 2024**. If there are more than two candidates for the vacancy, an election will need to be held, but this is a straightforward process. All you need to do is write a short paragraph (no more than one hundred words) outlining why you would like to become a Parent Governor. Your statement will be sent out to all parents and carers along with a voting paper. Should only two parents or carers apply, then they will automatically become Parent Governors. The term of office is four years.

What is the expected commitment?

The work of our governors is very important to the school in key areas such as: oversight and development of the ethos and curriculum of the school; well-being of pupils; staff employment and use of resources, as well as ensuring that the school maintains its high standards in all areas.

You will be expected to attend an evening meeting of the Governing Body once or twice per term and to join one of its committees which also meet once a term. Governors are also encouraged to visit the school during the day by arrangement and help in the oversight of an area of the curriculum, or other important areas such as safeguarding, as a link governor.

What is the school community looking for in its governors?

We are not looking for any particular expertise, but rather a strong commitment to the school and its students, the curiosity to question and a willingness to give some of your time to governance. However, if you have specialist knowledge or relevant experience, please do mention this in your statement. Induction training is provided for all new governors and governors are expected to attend further training on specific areas of school governance paid for by the school.

As a school, we are always mindful that the Governing Body should reflect the local community that the school serves, and members of ethnic minority groups are therefore particularly welcome on the Governing Body and are encouraged to stand for election.

Those parents and carers who applied for the vacancy last academic year, and are still interested in becoming a school governor, are very welcome to submit their statements again.

Please note that for the purpose of safeguarding, school governors are subject to an enhanced DBS check, administered via the school, which requires disclosure of any previous criminal convictions. Anything disclosed will not necessarily bar you from holding office and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the school.

I hope that you have found this information useful and that you will consider applying to become a Parent Governor. I feel extremely fortunate to work with our current governors who are highly committed and always looking to improve the school for the benefit of our wonderful students.

We hope that you will consider joining them.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Marriott

Headteacher