



8<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors of Rushcliffe School, and to encourage you to consider joining the Governing Body and to take advantage of your opportunities to express your opinions about the school in other ways.

I have been a parent governor at the school for over three years. Both of my daughters attend the school, currently in years 8 and 12. I work in education, with responsibility for school partnerships in my role at Nottingham Trent University. I was previously a Director at the National College for School Leadership, and before that I worked for eleven years within the education services of two local authorities. I am a trustee and director of the Trent Academies Group, which as I am sure you know is the academy trust of which Rushcliffe School is a part. It is a real privilege to be the Chair of Governors for the school, and I hope that all of our governors can continue to support our staff in providing a high quality education within a supportive environment.

You may be aware that the government's latest education White Paper included the suggestion that academies need no longer have parent governors. It remains to be seen whether this proposal is taken forward; however, whatever position the government takes, all academies within Trent Academies Group will retain an active governing body with the crucial involvement of parents and carers.

Rushcliffe School has been fortunate to have had the committed support of many parent governors over the years. It is our firm belief within Trent Academies Group that each school should be a community of learners in which the views of every individual and group are highly valued. The success of our schools depends upon this. You will probably be aware that Rushcliffe has a School Council, and we have introduced a number of other ways in which the opinions of our pupils are sought. We have introduced a new staff survey to gather their opinions about various issues, including the support given for their professional development and wellbeing. And we will be introducing from Autumn 2016 the use of regular 'pulse' surveys of parents and carers, which we will use to ask your opinion about particular issues throughout the year – do please look out for this.

A number of governors are reaching the end of their terms and we will therefore have a number of vacancies from the start of the next school year. Are you interested in joining the Governing Body? The commitment involves attending two meetings of two hours each per term, with other opportunities to get more involved but only if you wish to do so. There are all sorts of skills and experiences that people bring to the governing body, and we would be very interested to hear from you if you wish to get involved. Becoming a governor gives you the chance not only to find out more about how the school works, but also to help us to ensure we are pursuing the right vision, ethos and direction, in the right way.

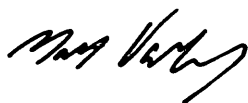
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The full Governing Body meets once each term, and governs every aspect of the school. We group these aspects into five areas: Ethos and Behaviour; Quality of Teaching; Attainment and Achievement; Business, Finance and Site; and Risks and Safeguarding. All governors attend this meeting each term. There are also two committees, which allows us to get into more detail, and governors are asked to attend one of these each term. Nicki Watson chairs the Education Committee, which governs the first three areas; and Adrian Farrell chairs the Business Committee, which governs the other two areas.

If you are considering becoming a governor, and would like to know more, please do drop me a line so that I can get in touch with you. Equally, if you have any ideas about other ways in which you would like the school to engage with you, then do please let me know, and do get in touch if you have any queries or observations. You can reach me at [m.varley@trentacadmiesgroup.com](mailto:m.varley@trentacadmiesgroup.com).

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Varley', written in a cursive style.

MATT VARLEY  
Chair of Governors  
Rushcliffe School