

Welcome to our fortnightly governance newsletter.

Oxfordshire School Governors Conference - Everyone Succeeding

It was lovely to meet so many governors in person at our conference last Saturday at the Oxford Spire Hotel. Over a hundred governors attended and there was a real buzz in the room as everyone took the opportunity to network.



The event's theme was Everyone Succeeding. Tim Brock welcomed Emma Knights, Chief Executive of The National Governance Association, who spoke about what success looks like from a governance perspective and how governors can make a real difference for children and

leaders in their schools. Emma then took questions.

After the coffee break Gail Tolley, independent chair of the Oxfordshire Education Commission, updated delegates on the work of the commission which is nearing its conclusion. The presentation was warmly received with many governors remarking that they could have listed to Gail for much longer.

Rachel Caseby then led a session which encouraged governors to talk with colleagues from other boards. Attendees sat at tables arranged according to school size and type and discussed achievements and barriers against a backdrop of the three core functions of school governing boards. Strategic direction, holding leaders to account for performance and financial management. Feedback was then given to all those in the room.

In the afternoon Emma Knights chaired a forum make up of Elaine Ricks Neal, Lynn Wong, Gail Tolley and Tim Brock who



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answered questions raised during the pre-lunch session. Elaine and Lynn govern in maintained schools and have a wealth of experience.

The final keynote was provided by Baroness Floella Benjamin who spoke passionately of her own experience having arrived in Britain from Trinidad in 1960. The journey she has been on is remarkable, her resilience is inspiring and the reception she received was warm and emotional.

Feedback was hugely positive with networking coming out as the key element. A selection of comments:

“Excellent event. Great sessions & balance to share experiences”

“Gail was very knowledgeable and Floella was truly inspirational”

“The people on my table for the discussion session were really well chosen. I have added people to my contacts as I know we can help each other.”

“Good to be networking and thanks for lunch!”

We look forward to planning the next conference for governors.

Governor Services training programme

We are now into our last week of training for this academic year. Induction B next week is our last course.

It has been a very busy and successful year for our training programme, with over 2000 attendees at 60 courses, as well as all our briefings and free events. Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you’ve found the sessions useful and been able to put what you’ve learnt into practice in your role.

Our [Autumn term training programme](#) is now available with booking open on GovernorHub for all courses. See below for details of how to book.

Governor Training - Exclusion and Suspension

This training is being reviewed over the summer break and we will let you know when this is available to book again.

The feedback we receive from governors who attend our training is invaluable to us and we regularly consider it and make changes so that our training offer remains relevant, accessible and of good quality.

If you have any suggestions regarding training that you would like us to deliver, please do let us know by writing to governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

How to book training

Training can be booked by using the Oxfordshire Governor Services link on Governor Hub and then clicking on the [Training heading](#).

For Governors without access to these pages bookings can be made:

- By email to GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk
- By phone on 03300 249046

Both methods will require a name and email address so the booking can be added to our online system and the joining link sent to you. MS Teams is the software used for course delivery.

If your school subscribes to training through the buyback, there will be no additional charge. All other bookings will be charged (unless the course is provided free which will be stated) on a 'pay as you use' basis. More details can be found here: [Pay As You Use Costs](#)

Sessions are NOT recorded unless this feature is stated in the description.

Our last update of the academic year will be posted on 14th July 2023. If you have any feedback, please do get in touch with us.

Hope you have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Joanne and Helen

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