



### STM Governing Board Newsletter – Spring 2019

It's been another busy term for all at STM and earlier this month the Governing Board went back to school for the day! We were thoroughly welcomed by both staff and students, please read on for some of the highlights of our day and stand out moments! We also welcome **Jo Cosgrove** to the Governing Board as a Foundation Governor - we look forward to working together as the board grows and welcomes in more skill sets to support our wonderful school.

#### Our Mission Statement

“Learning to love, live and celebrate as we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ“

#### Our Vision

To provide an outstanding education, with Christ at the centre, underpinned by a Catholic, spiritual ethos

As always, we are thankful to our teaching faculty and welcome all those who started this Spring term:

**Miss Becky Newman - Year 3 Mon-Wed**

**Parent View** gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about STM. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. Ofsted will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when. See STM website for link or click here:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

#### WHO WE ARE

Peter Fitzgerald	Chair
Jan Davis	Vice Chair
Kathy Little	Head Teacher
Sally Meredith	Staff Governor
Fr David Burke	Foundation Governor
Theresa Kelly	Foundation Governor
David Swarbrick	Foundation Governor
Leanne Butler	Foundation Governor
Jo Cosgrove	Foundation Governor
Monica Murray	Parent Governor
Laura Connor	Parent Governor

**All governors serve STM in a voluntary capacity**

#### A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR LENT AND EASTER

**Fr David Burke**

Dear Lord,

Help us to be your ears  
to listen to the cries of the poor.

Help us to be your voice  
speaking out love and acceptance.

Help us to be your feet  
walking beside those in need.

Help us to be your hands  
to cloth, feed and shelter them.

You came at Easter for the least, the lost  
and the last of this world.

Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

**Pope Francis**



## A Day at School!

It seems appropriate now after the Governors day to reflect on how fortunate we are to have the staff we have at our school. I have been a governor at St Thomas More School for over 12 years and every year I have been impressed with our staff. Never more so than now.

Our leadership team, our teachers, our teaching assistants and our support staff consistently show dedication to their profession over and above what we could reasonably expect. I have watched how they work to nurture and develop our children to get the best from them occasionally in challenging situations. They are always committed to their profession and to the responsibility of getting the best from the children. I am confident that our parents would agree with my opinion and I want to thank them for their consistent support of our school.

**Peter Fitzgerald**

Our Governor Working Day was worthwhile and a lovely way to see the wide-ranging learning all our children enjoy.

The children, as ever, impressed me with their confidence and maturity, when we met with the School Council for Pupil Voice. They clearly relish learning! When we asked what they most enjoyed about school, they first mentioned English and Maths before getting to the more-expected PE, Forest School and Art. Some even nominated homework!

A couple of children noted that their electronic whiteboards needed to be replaced - which Mrs Little had organised that week with the much appreciated support of parents through the School Association. A very popular item of news!

**Jan Davis**

It was so wonderful to spend the day at our school, I felt very welcomed by all the staff and especially the children. The visit confirmed that our children are happy, confident and articulate.

One of the many highlights of the day was able to watch Nursery take part in their child-led worship. The very youngest children actively participated in their act of worship, which was child-friendly and it was clear that they fully understood the purpose of this. They were able to use religious language correctly, with the necessary understanding, and join in with prayer and song independently and with much enthusiasm.

It is lovely to see that the youngest children have a solid foundation and understanding of their faith and I look forward to watching this grow throughout their school journey.

**Leanne Butler**

While visiting the school for the Governors day I met Mrs Simpson (Science Subject Leader) and the school's Science Ambassadors. I was a bit intrigued by this group and decided to find out a little more about them so I went along to one of their regular Thursday lunchtime meetings.

Science Club exists, in addition to the formal teaching of science in the classroom to encourage pupils with an interest in science to become more involved and pass that enthusiasm on to their younger colleagues. It also provides an opportunity for pupils from across the year groups to collaborate.

Clearly at St Thomas More we cannot make scientists of our pupils, but we can stimulate within its pupils that 'spark of curiosity', that's essential for someone who wishes to follow a scientific education and career. So, all of the School Governors wish Mrs Simpson and the Science Ambassadors success with their pioneering venture.

**David Swarbrick**

I was thrilled to attend my first Governor Working Day on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. There were many highlights but I was particularly impressed with the Science Club. From the outset, I was impressed with how enthusiastic the children were. Their eyes lit up answering our numerous questions about the club and its activities.

I feel reassured that such a club is on offer at the school to inspire the children and stimulate their learning, in such a fun environment.

**Jo Cosgrove**

I personally and professionally enjoyed very much our working day at school as Governors. The school is a happy place, where respect for other cultures and faiths, and principally for our Catholic ethos is manifest.

Pupils show passion for learning, empathy one for another and a feeling of inclusion. Teachers and supporting staff are amazing, focused and on task. The leadership is strong and excellent. It is clear that we are all working together for the same cause: the pupils, in both dimension of their learning and their well-being.

**Monica Murray**

I was very pleased to be there when Tony Gorton, RCDOW RE Advisor, met our newly formed Chaplaincy Team. They are a group of Yr 5 pupils who had to apply to be part of this team. There was strong competition and all the application forms were impressive.

In our discussions all the members of the Chaplaincy Team were enthusiastic and determined to give of their best in their new roles. They all had a clear vision of what they could do to support the spiritual life of our school. For example, two of the comments they made were:

"We've been learning about inspirational people and I want to be in our Chaplaincy Team so I can be an inspiring person in our school"

"I want The Chaplaincy Team to help create a community in our school where we help each other"

**Theresa Kelly**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March I spent a day at school, our school, and what a day it was! Far from the memories of my own experience of school but with a touch of the familiar, we were very warmly welcomed by staff and students into their learning environment. The enthusiasm, confidence and politeness of all the students I had the privilege of talking to (and joining on the playground at lunchtime!) really proved how the values and catholic life of the school are truly embedded within all aspects of STM.

We heard from the wonderfully articulate and confident Science Ambassadors and we were also fortunate to observe French lessons in Yr3 and Yr5. It was so inspiring to see the commitment to a subject, paired with the resilience of the students in their learning, resulting in huge progression in language skills in just two years.

We are really lucky to have such dedicated and caring staff at STM who are not only equipping students with academic skills but providing a warm, caring and nurturing environment which enables our students to have the confidence to behave in an inclusive and kind manner. So wonderful to actually see this in action – a real privilege.

**Laura Connor**



Yr 5 RE board showing their work on Inspirational People.

**Wishing you all a joyous and happy Easter break and we look forward to the start of the Summer term!  
With thanks from the STM Governing Board**