Tring School
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www.tring.herts.sch.uk Headteacher: Mrs Susanna Collings BSc (Hons), MA, FRSA

September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Governor Election, Autumn 2011

I am writing to you today to invite nominations for one parent governor vacancy. I hope that a number of you will decide to nominate yourselves for election: a nomination form is attached and needs to be returned to the school no later than 3.30pm on Friday 7 October 2011.

You need not feel that you must know anything about teaching or the running of a school in order to stand for election. Knowing about the education process is far less important than a genuine interest in contributing, first, from your own understanding, as a parent, of young people and, equally important, from your own personal and professional experience – the governing body needs a whole range of input from outside the education world. The term of office of a governor is four years and this gives time to learn as you go along, making a greater contribution as familiarity with the role grows. All new governors will have a more experienced 'buddy' to turn to with the inevitable elementary questions and the local authority provides a thorough induction training and continuing training opportunities to support specific governor tasks.

Tring School is a large organisation employing nearly 200 staff, with a revenue budget approaching £8 million. As with any such organisation, long term strategies and detailed objectives and plans have to be agreed on to meet the overriding objective of the school, which is to deliver the best possible education at all times for each of the school's pupils. Governors, as a body, are called upon to support the headteacher and the leadership team in critical discussion of current practice and future development and to ensure appropriate accountability.

The full Governing Body meets six times a year. Members will also sit on one or more of the three committees: these look in greater detail at the areas of finance, personnel, the effectiveness of teaching and learning, the curriculum subjects on offer, student welfare, the buildings, and relationships with the Tring community. Each committee also meets about six times a year. These take place on weekday evenings at 6pm, a schedule of meeting dates is on the website.

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However, being a governor is much more interesting than just papers and meetings: it offers the chance of fuller engagement with the whole life of the school - supporting its wide range of activities and visiting during the school day to learn about its primary function. This is a voluntary activity which does take time and energy, but I believe that all of the existing governors would agree that they find it immensely rewarding to be contributing in this way to the development of a flourishing school.

If you think you may be interested in joining us but would like to discuss any queries with me before making a decision whether to stand, please telephone the school and leave a message and I shall get back to you and arrange to meet you if you so wish.

We hope a number of you will be willing to offer yourselves for election to this important role within your children's school and we look forward to welcoming the parent elected to their first meeting next term.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Whitesmith
Chair of Governors