

7th March 2022

Dear Varndean Families,

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Varndean is a truly unique school within Brighton - offering our students hugely diverse and exciting learning and extra curricular opportunities, whilst maintaining a sense of community and belonging typically associated with much smaller schools. These are exciting times for Varndean as we enter a new phase with our Headteacher who was appointed in May 2021. We are also implementing a programme of significant investment in the school facilities. Governors will have a key role to play in the coming years, supporting the school leaders and ensuring that Varndean continues to flourish.

Our governors are passionate about working in partnership with the headteacher and her team to ensure all our students enjoy their education at Varndean and realise their full potential in their future lives.

We now have a vacancy on our governing body. I am writing to you to invite you to stand for election as a parent governor, or nominate another parent to do so. In our school we have provision for two and there is currently one vacancy.

The governing body works closely with the headteacher to oversee the strategic functions of the school. Governing bodies have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work. Training is available for all governors and this governing body has an expectation that those new to being a governor, attend free induction training.

The enclosed sheet summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor. In addition, parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 or more hours per academic year or who are elected members of the Local Authority, are not eligible to stand in these elections. Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close.





If you would like to stand for election please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to the school via email to mollygoodchild@varndean.co.uk or to reception, no later than **Monday 21st March**. You may also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words. Self-nominations will be accepted but if you are nominating another parent, please seek their prior consent.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, the election will be by ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

Yours faithfully,

Shelley Baker
Returning Officer.

