I’m David Smith and I’d like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors for the current academic year here at Yarborough Academy.

During my time to date as a governor I have been impressed by many aspects of the school, especially the caring and collective commitment of all the staff towards the development of the children, and I very much regard it an honour and privilege to undertake the role of Chair of Governors here.

For those unfamiliar with the role of a Governor, it is our responsibility to work closely with the Head to set the overall strategic direction of the school and provide ongoing support, challenge and encouragement to ensure there is a relentless focus on driving up standards across the whole school.

As Chair, my role is all about co-ordinating the activities and views of all governors to ensure we work as an effective team in driving forward school improvement as well meeting our other statutory requirements. In this respect we are also tasked in ensuring the school achieves ‘value for money’ in its use of the funding it receives – this requires we assess all spending against the principles of ‘economy, efficiency and effectiveness’.

Prior to my recent retirement, I spent some 38 years in the finance industry with HSBC and Yorkshire Bank. As a result, I have so far spent most of my time as a governor focusing on the financial aspects of the Academy. At present we have a sound financial foundation which has enabled us to make further investments in technology and the premises for the benefit of all pupils. We certainly look to this continuing on back of prudent management and astute planning.

Whilst I will continue to overview the finances for the coming year I will, as Chair, also be focusing in detail on how the Academy provides continued educational and personal development progression for all. We have a strong tradition of setting high expectations and delivering the best start in life for our pupils. There is however no room for complacency and continued pupil progression remains paramount.

I hope you find this informative. Over the coming months each of my fellow governors will similarly introduce themselves through this newsletter and let you know which areas of the school they are focusing on.

As ever, if any parent wants to speak to either myself or any other governor please let the main office know and they will arrange for us to contact you.

David T Smith

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