



# BRANCHING OUT

New Forest School Governors Newsletter

## STUDENT VOICE WORKSHOP



## Governing Board Upcoming Focus

The Governing Board are planning to continue to raise awareness of the involvement the Governors have at New Forest School

To increase the Governing Board to include a Teacher and Parent Representative Governor



**Professor Sarah Parsons BSc, PhD**

Professor of Autism and Inclusion

**Chair of Governors  
Special Educational Needs**

## Welcome To Our First Newsletter

Welcome to the first New Forest School Governors Newsletter; we will be using this newsletter to update students, parents/carers and staff on work the Governing Board have been undertaking at New Forest School.

The Governing Board at New Forest School has been set up to focus on key areas of the schools function, support the Vision, Aims & Values and create an independent challenge.

The Governing Board meets regularly with the Head Teacher to monitor areas and offer support in key areas of the delivery of education and wellbeing of the students.

Sarah Parsons  
Chair of Governors



**Jane Claydon**

Human Resources  
Manager at Quilter

**HR & Finance**



**Mark Fry**

Director of Education  
NFC

**NFC Board Link  
Governor**



**Alex Gooderham**

Responsible Individual &  
Safeguarding Officer  
NFC

**Safeguarding**



**David Crowley**

Deputy Head Teacher  
Noadswood School

**Associate Governor  
Curriculum**

## Profile: Jane Clayden

One of our associate Governors, Jane joined our Governing Board in 2020.

### Tell us about yourself:

My moto in life is you only live once, so cherish every moment and make it count, so when I'm not working it's all about my family and friends, having some fun and making memories.

The sunshine is always a bonus and brightens up any dark moment so holidays with my nearest and dearest are always top of the agenda, but you also can't beat an evening with a Netflix box set or chatting with your friends putting the worlds to rights.

### Why did you want to become a governor for NFS?

Initially I had no idea what was involved in being a governor, and nor did I have any exposure to the world of education, so when I first approached and asked if I wanted to become a part of NFS I was hesitant. However my eyes were soon opened, it soon became very apparent that the team at NFS were talented, passionate and caring, but that also the school and what it has to offer for our next generation was beyond fantastic.

In the small amount of time that I have been working with NFS team, visiting the sites and meeting the staffing team and students I am always truly amazed at the hard work, determination and resilience that everyone demonstrates throughout their day. This has opened by eyes, and made me realise there is a life outside of financial services that is far more rewarding, I really want to help giving something back and I'm very lucky to have been chosen to work with NFS as this gives me the perfect opportunity to do exactly that.

### STAFF VALUES

Below are the core values that Jane has helped embed in to our recruitment process.

We believe all staff and Governors at New Forest School need to act upon and fully engage with these values to ensure the best possible outcome for the Students.



**“It soon became very apparent that the team at NFS were talented, passionate and caring.”**

### How do you see your skills and knowledge from your professional career being used to support NFS?

My professional career spans across 26 years in financial services, throughout that time I have undertaken a variety of roles that have given me exposure to large corporate ways of working and thinking commercially.

Through doing this I soon realised that my passion was about the people and that regardless of any company size or origin the biggest asset is always their workforce, with this in mind I moved into the world of HR gaining my masters qualification.

Having the theory is a credit to anyone's skill set however its way in which you embed those qualifications into an organisation and gain the experience as part of your journey and this is where I feel I am able to add value to the NFS team.

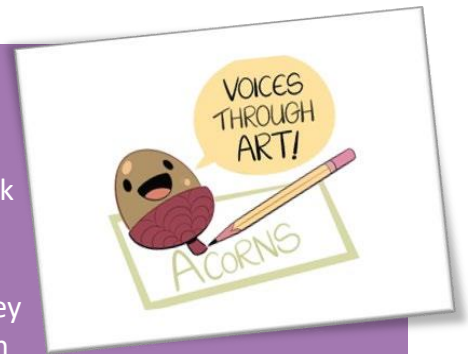
Jane has recently been heavily involved in the restructuring of appointing staff within the school, and was the lead Governor in the interviews for the appointment of Head of School Totton. Her HR experience and knowledge has helped the school in developing a robust interview process putting the schools ethos and values at the heart of the process.

## STUDENT VOICE: TRANSITION PROJECT

At the start of this academic year Sarah Parsons and I (Tracie Raufi) spent time with the staff team and students at Dibden School to continue the work we had previously been doing to give students an active voice.

We spent time with students and the staff team developing the project, a key part of which was to ensure that as a school we are to maintain our focus on students having an active voice on a day-to-day basis, throughout their time at the school.

Working with members of the ACoRNS team and published author/illustrator Samantha Davies, we ran an Art and English based project focusing on 'Transition through School' from the perspective of students with SEN. The result of which is a set of 4 comics books being published, the story and characters all being inspired by our student's experiences.



Students used this panel to explore what emotions the colours & body language



For more information about this project visit: <https://acorns-soton.org.uk/category/acorns-art/>

## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a key area for all schools. Our governing board is lucky to have Alex Gooderham undertaking the safeguarding focus for the school. Alongside his normal Governor duties, Alex has been acting as a 'critical friend' to the school by monitoring our safeguarding processes and procedures.

Alex has a background in safeguarding, is a fully trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and CEOP's Ambassador (CEOPS is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) as part of his day to day role with New Forest Care.

Every Headteacher's Report to Governors contains statistics and information on safeguarding concerns which Alex will study. We have also set up a working party between New Forest School and New Forest Care Safeguarding Leads to share good practice, training opportunities and resources to help develop our expertise and knowledge and Alex was fundamental in setting this up.

Over the next half term, Alex will be working with Duncan Smith (Headteacher) undertaking a full safeguarding audit to assist us in our desire to continually improve the vital role of safeguarding our schools and students. He will then report back to the Governing Board his findings and relevant action plan required to support the school in fulfilling its aim of ensuring every child feels safe in school and appropriate action is taken to protect the children from harm.



**TEAMWORK**  
**RESILIENCE**  
**ENJOYMENT**  
**ENGAGEMENT**  
**SELF-CONFIDENCE**

**NEW**  
**FOREST**  
**SCHOOL**  
**VALUES**

