

13th September 2019

Dear Parent or Carer

At the start of the academic year, it may be helpful to share some headline information about the governance of our school. As you will be aware, Hydesville Tower School is part of the Cognita family of schools. Cognita is a global schools group with over 70 schools in eight countries. Being part of the Cognita family helps us to connect with other schools, share best practice and benefit from a broad professional network. Every school within the Cognita family is different; we embrace this diversity and learn from each other. As a group, we have high aspirations for all our pupils. We see a Cognita Education as enabling all young people to develop in three core areas:

- High academic standards
- Character development
- A global perspective

The legal proprietor of the school is Cognita and each school has a named Chair of Governors. The role of Chair of Governors is fulfilled by one of the team of Directors of Education from the Cognita Education Team. The Chair of Governors visits the school regularly, works with the school leaders, visits classrooms and talks to pupils. Some of the main functions of the Chair of Governors are:

- Active involvement in the appointment of the head and senior staff
- Lead performance management of the head
- Monitor the school's performance in a range of areas
- Work as a critical friend to support the school in evaluating and constantly finding ways to improve

Our Chair of Governors is Danuta Tomasz

Danuta has worked in education all her life after graduating from York University with a degree in English and related literature (French). She started her career as an English teacher and went on to be a Head of English, Head of Sixth Form and as Assistant Headteacher at a variety of schools in East Yorkshire. She then went on to work for the DfE – firstly as a member of a newly established Education Action Zone and then to lead the Excellence in Cities programme for Hull – co-ordinating the improvement of 19 senior and 40 junior schools in her time in the post.

However, the call of the classroom was too great and after almost ten years she decided to return back to the chalk face, initially as a Deputy Head at a school in Hull and then as a head of a school in the East Riding, a job she did for five years before eventually starting the next chapter of her working life at Cognita.

Danuta is married and has two wonderful adult sons – one of whom lives with his girlfriend in London and the other who has just started his training as an accountant in Nottingham.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

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Best wishes

Mr Honey

Headmaster