



<http://oga4schoolgovernors.org.uk>

16th September 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to the new school year. Firstly I am delighted to tell you that we have confirmed details of our next Free Open Meeting. The main speaker will be Paul Aber from the National Governance Association (NGA) on

Vision, Culture and Strategy

The meeting will include an opportunity for a discussion around the key issues and challenges that we face and the OGA AGM will form a short part of the meeting. It will be held on

Saturday 19th October from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. followed by a buffet lunch.

The venue has yet to be finally confirmed but it is likely that it will be held in Matthew Arnold School, Oxford: full details will follow shortly. They will be posted onto our website and detailed directions will be sent to participants, so it is important that you book your place through our website or directly with our secretary Judith Bennett, stating if you would like lunch and have any specific dietary requirements: judith.bennetts@outlook.com .

At the start of the financial year for Academies and the school year for all of us I am aware that the majority of our schools are under extreme budgetary challenge. Pressure on staff time tends to make us all focus on our own school and lose sight of the wider community imperative of working in partnership with other education providers in our local areas. Supporting OGA is one way to ensure that the voice of Governors (by which I mean all those that govern our schools so including Members, Directors, Trustees etc.) is heard at local authority level. Supporting NGA, either through OGA or directly ensures the voice of Governors is heard at national level.

We were delighted that OGA representatives were invited to meet the new Governor Services officer Tim Brock in his first week in post, that this post is once again a full-time role and that he is keen to work with OGA. Please remember we also have representatives on various other [consultative groups](#) and we hold our own [Consultation Meetings](#) with elected members and senior officers at which we can raise issues that affect a number of schools. We do rely on our schools paying our very minimal membership subscription which funds expenses for our meetings and attendance by representatives at local and national governance events. If your school has not yet subscribed (please check through [this link](#)) then please ask your school to support us at only £10.00 or £15.00, unchanged since 2003. You will appreciate we cannot afford to pay for admin. support, so invoicing all schools that have not subscribed through the OCC buyback offer is impractical.

The recent [funding announcement](#) and [Review of SEND](#) are welcome, particularly the acknowledgement that capping of the new funding formula should be removed and that schools need to know their funding for a longer period than the current financial year. However it is deeply disappointing that there is no more funding to meet the additional costs that we face in the current financial year or to address the cost pressures for Early Years, Post 16 and Capital funding, which don't feature at all. Additional funding for the High Needs block also falls well short of what is needed. Clearly there is still work to be done to ensure that we have the necessary resources to meet the needs of our children and young people.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on October 19th.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carole Thomson', with a horizontal line underneath.

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