

23 September 2011

Launch of Altwood School Parents' Association

Dear Parents,

As you will know, Altwood School has made excellent progress in recent years with strong exam results, good or outstanding inspections, high demand for places and a wide range of activities to help children thrive in and beyond the classroom. These achievements are a testament to the leadership of Miss Higgins and the school's highly committed staff.

As parent governors we want to ensure that the head teacher and staff have the maximum support from parents and the wider community. For this reason we would like to establish an Altwood Parents' Association as a formal body to mobilise the goodwill and energy of parents and others who wish to be more involved in the school community and contribute to its success.

Our initial view is that such an organisation should set itself a clear limited role and achievable aims, such as to organise one or more events in each school year to raise money for agreed projects, social events for parents to meet and provide a network for committed parents willing to help in specific tasks in support of the school. Its role would be separate from that of the Parent Council, whose job is to enable the head teacher to consult with parents on the school's academic and pastoral development and allow parents to raise issues or make suggestions. It would be possible, and indeed welcome, if individuals were to be members of both although the Parents' Association would be run by parents and all parents would automatically be members.

We are, however, keen to listen to views on the role of such a parents' body and to invite suggestions or proposals for how it might operate. We would welcome feedback and offers of help and a meeting for parents will be held on **Tuesday, October 11 at 7pm in the Conference Room at the main Reception** to discuss this and, if agreed, to begin the process of establishing the Association. The intention is that the meeting should last for one hour only. It would be great to have a healthy turn-out so please attend if you can and encourage others to do so. Many parents lead busy lives and so if you are unable to be there but would like to be kept informed of progress and future events, please let us know.

Similarly, if there are any other issues you wish to raise with us as governors do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

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