

I have been lucky through my life to not only work in some amazing places but to also meet some amazing people. Through my role as community governor it has been a real pleasure to witness the wonderful work that the staff at St John's do and also the incredible achievements that so many of its students make. I am especially lucky to be able to witness the next stage of many of your sons' and daughters' education. Having worked at Shire Oak Academy for nearly 20 years now I have seen so many ex St John's students work their way through to the end of compulsory education. Indeed, the quality of education that St John's provides its students with is never more evident when they join up with other students in our Year 7. In recent years, through my work with the sixth form at Shire Oak, I have been especially interested to see students make their final steps to university and beyond. I know from conversations with them that so many still hold such wonderful memories of their experiences at St John's that its place at the heart of the community in the area will long continue.

Being a governor is about being a critical friend. At our meetings we look forward to hearing about the work of the students along with the developments planned by Mr Mills and his team. Whilst the word 'critical' may seem that all we might look for are faults, the reality is quite the opposite. We are there as a support for the school, we may ask some tough questions but we are all working towards the goal of continuing the world class education that St John's has been providing for many years. With the changes in the education climate and tightening budgets a vast challenge faces all schools but I for one couldn't think of a better place for the future of this county to be educated. It would be fair to say that the future looks very bright at St John's, I look forward to continuing my link with the school and hope that you as parents continue to play your part in the life of the school.

Neal Critchley
Community Governor

