



Local Academy Committee Newsletter

March 2022

Be the best you can be; together we grow from acorns to oaks, flourishing in God's love.

Introducing the new Local Academy Committee

Lorna Theophilus
(Chair)
Foundation member



I grew up in Bream and attended Bream C of E Primary School as a child. I left the area for a few years to study English and History at Keele University, before returning home to Bream to raise my family. I'm married with three children, all of whom attend Bream School. I have a professional background in property development and project management, and I now work part-time as a Church Building Support Officer for the Diocese of Hereford. I'm on the Parochial Church Council at St. James Church and I was keen to join LAC as a Foundation representative to support Bream School both because it is my children's school, but also because I think strong connections between the school and the church are important for both. I'm really pleased to be able to join the LAC at this point in the school's improvement journey and I am ambitious for the future of the school.

Matt Creed
Parent member



I was born in the Forest of Dean and attended primary school within the Forest. I am married and we have two children who both attend Bream School. I run my own company working within television broadcast and have worked in that industry for 25 years. I am a keen runner and have taken part in over 100 marathons. I wanted to become more involved with the school and understand more of how it works during the home-schooling period of 2020. I learnt so much from seeing my own children develop through that time, which was early on in their education path. I offer my support to work with parents, teachers, the Head and other Governors to help the continued improvement needed to provide our children with the best chance of primary education and preparation for secondary school. I totally believe in the value and importance of a well-balanced education as well as ensuring they have a safe and loving environment to be taught in.

Ann Hemsley
Foundation member



I have three, now-adult, children who attended Bream School in the 80's and 90's, during which time I served as a governor including being chair of governors. I was also involved in the school parent teacher association, which was involved with fundraising, mainly for the school swimming pool at that time.

I worked for Gloucestershire Parent and Toddlers Association (PATA) as a Fieldworker, visiting and supporting community playgroups in the North Forest area and was also part of their training team, which involved training play leaders and committees. In 1995 my family and I

	moved to Singapore due to my husband's job. Recently, four of my seven grandchildren have started attending Bream School having relocated from Singapore. I am currently part of the Leadership team at St James' Church, Bream and look forward to supporting and encouraging links between the church and school. In line with Bream School's vision, I firmly believe that all children have the right to achieve their full potential and should be encouraged to do so by all means possible, so I am delighted to be able to offer support to Bream School as it strives to achieve this aim.
Maurice Bloomfield Associate member	
	Although I was born in the south east my wife and I have lived in Aylburton for the last 44 years and our two sons both went to Aylburton C of E Primary school. I trained as an Engineer and after a short spell in the hydraulics industry I re-trained as a teacher and moving to the area to teach at Wyedean school. Returning to industry with Rolls-Royce I worked with them for 22 years before retiring in 2000. Since retiring I have become more involved in local community work serving a term as Chair of Aylburton Parish Council and also as Trustee and Treasurer of the Bledisloe – New Zealand Memorial Trust providing grants for people wishing to emigrate to or undertake a course of education in New Zealand. For the last 5 years I have also been a Governor of the Severn Federation of schools, chairing the Finance Committee; and thence becoming a Trustee of the Severn Federation Academy Trust. I have stepped down from being a Trustee but offered my services to the Bream Advisory Committee so that they could benefit from my Governor experience.
Mrs Brice Headteacher (ex-officio)	Mrs Brice is the Headteacher and therefore automatically part of the Committee.
Mr Thompson Staff representative	Mr Thompson is the Year 6 teacher and has been nominated by the staff team to be their representative on the Committee.

What is a Local Academy Committee?

Bream Church of England Primary School is now part of the Severn Federation Academy Trust, which was formed in January 2021 and now includes five primary schools in the Forest of Dean. Each school within the Trust has a Local Academy Committee (LAC), which represents their school within the Trust. The purpose of the LAC is to maintain strong oversight of the educational standards and Christian ethos of the school. Duties include monitoring the standards and progress of pupils attending the Academy, monitoring and promoting the links between the Academy and the local parish, parents and local community, ensuring that there are effective procedures in place within the Academy regarding pupil support, attendance and discipline, and monitoring the Christian distinctiveness of the Academy.

The LAC at Bream is made up of a mixture of parents, representatives appointed by the Church, representatives from the community, staff and school leaders.

Join us!

We are currently looking to recruit a second parent representative and a community representative. **Volunteering can make you happier!** Research shows that volunteering is associated with enhanced wellbeing, including improved life satisfaction, increased happiness and decreased symptoms of depression¹. Being a school committee member is a rewarding experience, giving you the opportunity to give back and make a difference to the children in the school. It also has positive benefits for you by helping build self-confidence, wellbeing, job satisfaction, and motivation as well as improving skills such as teamwork, negotiation, problem-solving and decision making.

If you would like to discuss joining the Local Academy Committee, please contact the school office or our Governance Professional on: clerk@lydney.gloucs.sch.uk

We hope to arrange a 'meet the LAC' event later in the Spring once Covid levels and restrictions have eased. Details to follow in due course.

Friends of Bream C of E Primary School

If the Local Academy Committee isn't for you then another opportunity to help is through the Friends of Bream Primary School (FoBPS). FoBPS have made a significant contribution to Bream School over the years and their fundraising has aided many projects including improvements to the garden and playgrounds, as well as supporting school trips. Besides their financial contributions the FoBPS also make a considerable difference to the cohesiveness of the school, improving connections between the school and parents and carers.

¹ University of East Anglia, 2020. Volunteering linked to improved life satisfaction, happiness, and quality of life - UEA. [online] Available at: <<https://www.uea.ac.uk/news/-/article/volunteering-linked-to-improved-life-satisfaction-happiness-and-quality-of-life>> [Accessed 13 February 2022].

As we emerge from the pandemic the Local Academy Board and the school leadership team are very keen to re-establish the FoBPS. The FoBPS committee needs to operate independently from both the Academy and the Local Academy Committee. We are therefore hoping to create a team of parents who would be willing to assist with revitalising FoBPS with our support and assistance.

Volunteering with the FoBPS is a very real way to support and improve the educational and social opportunities of children at Bream School. If you would like to be involved, please contact the school office or Lorna Theophilus on ltheophilusacm@bream.gloucs.sch.uk.

We will also be holding an information session on the FoBPS so please keep an eye on your emails for dates and time.