

Message from the WIS Board

The Woodford Board held its final meeting of 2017 on 29 November. The Board agreed to publish a draft [Fundraising Policy](#) for consultation. The draft policy (attached to this message) includes guiding principles for fundraising activities and aims to provide a clear approval process so that fundraising is coordinated, safe, responsive to community needs and interests, transparent and accountable. The draft fundraising policy complements the school's [Fraud Policy](#) and [Child Protection Policy](#) that were adopted by the Board earlier this year and the (less detailed) [Strategic Policies Compendium](#) adopted in 2016.

We encourage all parents, guardians, staff and students to review the draft fundraising policy and provide comments on it so that we can ensure the policy we adopt reflects your interests and addresses any concerns you may have. Please send your comments to woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com or hand hardcopy comments to the reception desk marked 'Attention: Policy Committee, WIS Board' by 29 January, 2018. Comments will be considered and revisions to the policy made, as appropriate, before the Board's next meeting on 7 February, 2018, when we expect a final version will be adopted.

The Board was very pleased to note at the meeting a new 'WIS Facilities Management Plan' developed by the Head of School (HoS) and Board Strategy Committee, as well as the HoS' progress in strengthening financial reporting and management, both of which are crucial to effective governance and efficient school operations. At the same time, the Board was reminded of some historic weaknesses in this area when the Head of School advised that certain payments by the school (prior to the HoS' arrival) had been incorrectly attributed to the PTFA in the school's accounts. This is disappointing but fixable: the Board accepted the HoS' and PTFA President's recommendation that the funds be repaid to the PTFA and that priority be given to strengthening the school's business systems so PTFA funds cannot be disbursed in the future without proper direction from the PTFA.

Finally, current board member Dr Panagiota Kouri resigned from the Board following the meeting. She will return to Europe at the end of the school term. The Board thanked Dr Pana for her energetic participation in Board deliberations since her appointment in March 2017 and wished her and her family well in the next chapter of their lives. Dr Pana's departure means a vacancy has arisen on the Board, which we are very keen to fill.

We welcome expressions of interest from any parents or guardians interested in joining the WIS Board of Management to fill this vacancy. The person appointed to replace Dr Pana will serve out the remainder of Dr Pana's two-year term, that is until the WIS Annual General Meeting in March 2019. For information on the role and responsibilities of the Board and its members, please read the school's [Governance Handbook](#) and/or reach out to any of the existing Board members – in person or via woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining the Board to replace Dr Pana, please send a brief expressions of interest of no more than 200 words to woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com by Friday 2 February, 2018.