

# Governor Mark Assessor Newsletter

No. 3

May / June 2008

Apparently when a ship is launched it is the shipyard workers standing next to the keel that see it move immediately, whilst onlookers think nothing is happening for a while. When it is visibly on its way into the sea, nothing can stop it.

Governor Mark feels like this. There is still only one school with the award, and two more assessments underway. More evident is the 20+ schools who we have been in contact with GLM, many through their local authority COG, who are seeking guidance to make sure they are ready to submit their application. On top of that, colleagues around the country indicate that governing bodies are busy on this in their locality.

When schools seek help they offer to pay. They are anxious to avoid going through assessment and then failing, so ask for someone to review their draft submission. We are keen to spread the experience around in supporting schools with their application.

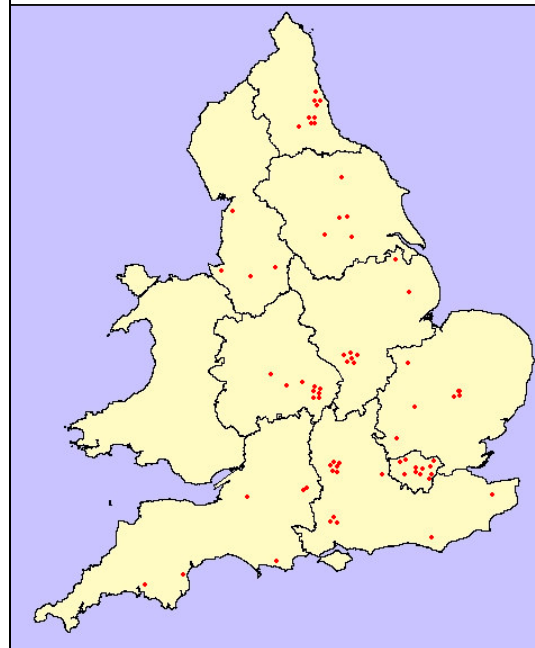
There was a section of Issue 2 of this newsletter that showed ways in which schools can be supported. You are likely to fall into one of a number of categories:

- a) You are an assessor with enough to do thanks;
- b) You are an assessor who is working with governing bodies in your area helping them with their applications and it is keeping you busy;
- c) You are an assessor who is working with governing bodies in your area helping them with their applications and would like to do more;
- d) You are an assessor wondering if GLM will ever contact you and offer work that you are keen to do.

It would be very helpful if you fall into categories c or d, (as well as b) if you could let us know. We are keen to gather some perspective of the lie of the land, and also co-ordinate some of this advisory work, mainly to develop colleagues' confidence and expertise with Governor Mark, but perhaps more importantly to maintain the standards, particularly in relation to impact statements.

It will also help us gather information which might inform a review of Governor Mark which we expect to undertake in the autumn and spring. Governor Mark may work better with two visits rather than one, if schools appear to be willing to pay for them.

## Assessors - where are they?



## 2009 Conference for Assessors

We are planning to hold a conference for assessors in the first half of the 2009 spring term. Date and venue is expected to be confirmed in the July/August newsletter. The purpose of the conference will be twofold:

a) There will be the opportunity to draw from experiences of those who have carried out assessments and/or been working with Governor Mark in their own area. Engagement with a governing body actually going through the process certainly concentrates the mind and boosts confidence.

b) Experience will also help us to work together to improve the Governor Mark process. We mentioned on Page 1 some of the thinking going on in the light of governing body activity with Governor Mark, but it would not be appropriate to revise the standards unless it was in consultation with you, our team of assessors.

The conference is planned to be held in Birmingham and will be free of charge. Get thinking - your input before the event will help steer our planning.

## NEWS

Susie Hall, the Head of Governor Services in Cambridgeshire and one of the founder members of GLM, has moved on. She is from mid-June the Director of Training and Development for Prior's Court Foundation, based in Berkshire.

We will not be losing touch with Susie who at the very least continues to be one of our Governor Mark assessors.

It is nevertheless important that we say 'thank you' to her for the enormous contribution she has made to GLM and specifically Governor Mark itself.

### GLM Contact details

Phil Hand  
GLM  
The Old Clink  
The Holloway  
Warwick  
CV34 4SJ  
Tel: 01926 413722  
[philhand@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:philhand@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Claudia Wade Tel: 01865 458771  
[Claudia.wade@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Claudia.wade@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Mary McKay Tel : 01926 413722  
[gmmckay@aol.com](mailto:gmmckay@aol.com)

### Updating our Records!

It would be really helpful if you would complete and return this section to me at the email address below. More schools are contacting us, asking for consultancy support in helping them develop their use of Governor Mark, and some assessors are no longer available. We therefore need to update our records.

**How to respond:** 1: save as 'assessor questionnaire'; 2 delete everything except this section (this helps because the map on page 1 is a huge file); 3 fill in the blank cells and return.

Thank You!

Mary McKay [gmmckay@aol.com](mailto:gmmckay@aol.com)

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Venue attended for Assessor Training	
Are you still available to do Governor Mark Assessments?	
Are you available to support governing bodies working on their Governor Mark application?	
Are you interested in attending the Assessor Conference in January 2009?	