



Governor Newsletter - Issue 1

December 2013



Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of our Governor Newsletter. Governors plan to send out a termly newsletter to parents and carers giving updates on the work being carried out by the Governing Body on behalf of the school. We hope you will find this informative but would welcome any suggestions to improve communication further.

Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware, we received a visit from Ofsted during the last academic year which found that the school required special measures to improve. Since this inspection, our new Headteacher has worked with the Governing Body to produce a Post Ofsted Action Plan which was reviewed by Ofsted in a follow up visit to school carried out in October. The visit looked closely at the plan and at the progress the school has been making in response to Ofsted recommendations. The inspector was very pleased with the progress the school had made in the relatively short space of time since our inspection and we look forward to our next Ofsted visit early in the New Year.

Parent Meeting

A meeting with parents and carers was held on 25 November 2013 to discuss our post Ofsted progress where parents asked the Headteacher and Chair of Governors a variety of challenging questions which were very useful to us. We are hoping to arrange a Parent Meeting again in the New Year to provide you with the opportunity of discussing school improvement issues further with us. I will keep you informed of this, along with details of future monitoring visits and Action Plan progress at appropriate intervals.

Committee Structures

Following a review of governance, the Governing Body has undergone several changes to help governors focus upon the vital work required to help move the school forward. We have a newly formed School Improvement Committee which meets monthly to specifically monitor progress against our School Development Plan, in addition to the work of our Resources Committee and Curriculum Committees.

Link Governors

We have reviewed our governor links to year groups and departments and have timetabled regular visiting schedules. Each school visit carried out by governors has a particular focus and the

subsequent visit reports generated by governors inform the Governing Body as a whole and deepen governor understanding of the work of the school. There have been several visits conducted already this term which have been extremely beneficial to pupils, staff and governors.

Governors have also been working closely with the School Leadership Team and the information gathered from this will help the Governing Body in their discussions and work with staff going forward.

Some of the work carried out by governors this term includes:

September 2013

- ✓ Governors attended a data training session;
- ✓ the full Governing Body met to discuss improvement priorities;
- ✓ Governors completed skills audits and a review of governance;
- ✓ our School Improvement Committee met for the first time to review progress;
- ✓ Governors carried out school visits.

October 2013

- ✓ governors attended training on FFT data, Pupil Premium and Appraisal;
- ✓ the School Improvement Committee met to monitor progress;
- ✓ Governors met with Her Majesty's Inspector to discuss progress against Ofsted recommendations.

November 2013

- ✓ the full Governing Body met to prioritise the work of governors for the coming year;
- ✓ Governors attended a Local Authority pay and conditions briefing, school visits, an Ofsted Update Evening and Year 11 Presentation Evening;
- ✓ the Resources Committee met to discuss buildings, finance and staffing issues.

December 2013

- ✓ the School Improvement Committee met to review progress and agree school improvement priorities;
- ✓ the full Governing Body met to review the progress made since September and to finalise a longer term School Development Plan;
- ✓ our Performance Management Group met to conduct Headteacher Appraisal;
- ✓ Governors attended a Local Authority review meeting to assess our school progress.

Finally.....

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of the school and would like to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year. I would especially like to thank the staff for their exceptional efforts throughout the extremely busy period we have faced since September.

George Craig

Chair of Governors