

Welcome to our Spring Term Governor Newsletter- which will be sent out to parents each term, to update you on how, as Governors, we have been carrying out our roles and meeting our responsibilities.

In this newsletter:

- How governors are involved directly in monitoring pupil outcomes through their involvement with data
- Wellbeing
- Enrichment

The Academy Council has a Governor Handbook which clearly defines our roles and responsibilities..... for instance

'Governors should aim to build productive relationships, creating a sense of trust and shared ownership of the organisation's strategy, vision and operational performance.'

Issue 2

March 2018

Academy Council Meeting: March 2018



Although the Spring terms are short this year due to an early celebration of Easter, it has been a busy time in school, with World Book Day and each year group inviting parents to join them for a 'Morning in My World'. What an enjoyable and informative way for parents and Governors to see the children in action in the classroom. It was eye-opening to see the high level of expectation and standard of work achieved by the children, across the year groups. Several parents were heard to make very positive remarks on what they had seen in comparison to their own primary school experiences, which really endorses how the teachers engage all the children in their learning.

Data and Assessment

'Governors are required to make a rigorous analysis of pupil progress and attainment information with comparison against local and national benchmarks and over time.'

The Academy's priority is to ensure that pupils make expected progress and fulfil their potential in terms of attainment. Assessment of pupil progress is something that teaching and support staff carry out on a regular, even daily basis. Knowing what each pupil needs to do to make progress is of the utmost importance.

It is an important part of the Governors responsibilities to monitor and challenge pupil progress and attainment data reports that the school prepare for each Academy Council meeting;

They can do this in a number of ways – by engaging with data reports that school prepare for Academy Council and Data meetings; by making comparisons with national data; and linking with the Senior Leadership Team.

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Huge congratulations to all at Western House for a 'FIRST'. The first Primary School to be awarded the 'ALICE ALLEY' award from The British Legion for their Poppy Collection 2017.

A wonderful award for a top school.



Final thoughts:

The beautiful thing about learning is no-one can take it away from you.

BB King.

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As Link Governor for Assessment and Data, I visit at least once a term and meet with Mrs Snowden and her team. We discuss the results of assessment tests that the pupils have taken. This year WHA have introduced two new assessments for maths and reading, which have given the staff really useful data on which to base planning and teaching curriculum areas.

Having the opportunity to look at pupil workbooks is an excellent chance to see the great progress that has been made since the start of the year in September. Early this term, during a Guided Reading session in year 4, it was really exciting to see how the pupils engaged with the class book, developing their understanding of the story and new vocabulary... all part of assessing progress in a lesson.

Parents can be really confident that their child's progress is a constant priority for all members of staff and Governors at WHA, based on a robust system of assessment and monitoring.

Liz Herod - Link Governor: Data and Assessment.

Wellbeing for Everyone

I bring my experience of working with wellbeing and safeguarding for 6 years with Slough Council and Trust. I am the Safeguarding Governor for WHA and last but certainly not the least I look after the school dinners (or lunches if you prefer!).



I recently met with the business head of Pabulum (our caterers) and discussed the issues raised by parents. We encouraged our lunch prefects to raise their likes and dislikes about the school dinners in what was a very positive meeting (picture above). We will be getting regular updates from Pabulum from now on. Pabulum will be with us on a student council meeting day. I would request all parents to take some time to complete the feedback form so that we can work to provide healthy and tasty food for our children.

Anjali Singhal - Safeguarding Link and Parent Governor

Important Information about Pupil Premium Grant

One of the things governors look at specifically is use of the Pupil Premium Grant, to ensure it is being fully utilised for the purpose intended and that the way it is being spent is making a positive impact. And when we look at what is being achieved with this money, through providing direct support to children's learning and enrichment, we see real results – it is making a genuine difference. There is a long list of the things the Pupil Premium Grant is helping provide on the school's website; some of you may have thought the money is only for school meals but you will see that it is so much more. The grant can only be claimed against pupils who are eligible and have registered, it is not general funding. Some of you may not realise you could be entitled to register - it is linked to being in receipt of certain benefits. But each grant is worth £1,300 for the year, so if you think you might qualify and haven't yet registered, please contact the school office. Your enquiry will be treated in strictest confidence but if you are eligible, please don't throw away this valuable funding? Every additional penny we can get for the school helps us to help your son or daughter enjoy all the opportunities they deserve.

Simon Carter - Chair and PPG Link Governor