

Governors' Newsletter

April 2018

Welcome back after what I hope was an enjoyable Easter break.

Reflecting on the Spring Term, it was another busy period for staff and governors. It was a key period for Year 6 as the pupils found out which secondary school they will be going to and have been working hard in preparation for their SATs. I'd like to thank Mrs Holliday for all the extra effort she has given to support the pupils in reaching their potential.

The governors have also been busy. In addition to the Resources Committee, Curriculum Committee and Governing Board which meet termly, we also held the annual Support Staff Pay Committee and a Premises Working Party which focuses on ensuring that the school buildings and grounds are safe, secure and conducive to learning. The Premises Working Party has been reviewing some of the excellent suggestions that the School Council have made and we will be making some improvements to the girls' toilet in light of their suggestions.

Governors have also undertaken a number of monitoring visits to the school covering a range of topics. These include monitoring progress against the School's Development Plan which focusses on: Teaching and Learning; Curriculum; Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural; Assessment; and Leadership & Management. We also reported on Playtime Observation, Health & Safety, the Able Writers' workshop and Mother's Day lunch.

At the recent Governing Body meeting, we spent time reviewing the results of the parent survey conducted at the last parent-teacher consultation and the feedback that many of you had taken the time to provide. We value comments as your perspective is an important consideration in driving the school forward. We would also welcome suggestions as to how the school can improve the way in which we engage with parents and carers.

You may have seen in the news that funding for schools has been reducing in real terms over recent years and this is equally the case for Bishop William Ward. With competition for funding at a national level between education and health services and increases in the living wage, spend prioritisation is a key consideration for the governors. The Resources Committee ensures funds are prioritised and allocated accordingly and have once again determined a balanced budget for the next academic year. We are able to apply to the Diocese to fund major projects, for example the replacement and upgrades to the windows that took place in 2016. These funds are also limited and so not every year will yield such major improvements. However, there are a couple of projects in the pipeline that we hope to give more information about in the near future. The good news is that we have received additional funding to invest in the provision of new sports facilities. Plans for how best to apply these funds will be considered during the summer term with the aim of conducting works over the summer break.

I'd like to thank Karen Willis and Jackie Cozens who recently stepped down from their roles as governor. The time and effort that they have volunteered in support of the school has been greatly appreciated. Also, welcome to Julia Furey who has joined the team.

Finally, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Stuart Carey who, after handing over the baton of Chair last year, has decided to step down as a governor. Stuart's tireless contribution over the many years of involvement with the school has been admirable and he will be missed.

Kind regards

Dave Kinzett

Chair of Governors