



## **Governing Body Review of the Year 2016/17**

As we are approaching the end of the summer term, here is a summary and review of the last academic year.

### **Governing Body Membership Changes**

David Watts term of office as a parent governor came to an end during the autumn term. We are most grateful to him for his support and assistance during his time on the Governing Body and in particular for his work assisting governors and the school with school website compliance as well as introducing a Driving at Work Policy and supporting the office staff with the school inventory.

We were delighted to announce that Claire Riches was elected a parent governor with effect from November 2016. Claire qualified as a doctor and works within the pharmaceutical industry, brokering, optimizing and supporting Research and Development strategic relationships across pharmaceutical companies and their partners. She served as co-Chair of the GSA from 2008-2010 and with three children has been a parent at Greenway since 2003 - her son is currently in Year 4.

### **Actions taken by the Governing Body through 2016/17**

School Plan for 2016/17: With the Senior Leadership Team and our external advisor, we have continued to monitor the School Plan, particularly in its teaching and learning objectives and those targets set for pupils' achievements and standards. We have been particularly excited to monitor the introduction of Philosophy for Children (P4C) this year within the curriculum. We arranged for an external safeguarding audit to be undertaken in April 2017 and were delighted that the school passed this. We have also spent a great deal of time assessing the school's e-Safety and Data Security Policy and implementing effective monitoring procedures – Rachel Hesslegrave has been the link governor for this. We await the report from our recent Ofsted inspection. As governors we have undertaken extensive research into those options open to the school within the current political climate – this work has resulted in the Governing Body's decision to go out to consultation on the Berkhamsted Educational Trust and we will be reporting back to you with the results of this consultation shortly.

Standards: You may recall from last year that staff and governors have faced many changes particularly with regard the new assessment procedures. To ensure that as

governors we had a real grasp of this rapidly evolving area we arranged for the Governing Body to have bespoke training using the school's data to ensure that we were confident in challenging the school with the information around pupils' progress and attainment presented to us at governors' meetings. This training has been informative and helpful and supported governors with their understanding. The evidence we have reviewed to-date shows that the school has continued to deliver a very good education for all pupils. We are really pleased to report that the preliminary data for 2017 is extremely promising and shows even more positive results than last year. We remain very grateful to all the school's highly professional and well led staff for their delivery of a wonderful education to all pupils.

Budget: We have agreed a balanced budget for the forthcoming year and you will receive a summary financial statement shortly which will also be placed on the school website. Governors undertake regular visits to the school to be appraised of the administrative systems used by them.

Pupil Premium: Governors monitor the spending of Pupil Premium to ensure that the money received is used in the most effective way for the benefit of those particular children eligible for it. You will see a summary of how this money has been spent on the school's website. We are delighted that external providers of support services used by the school continue to praise the school's exemplary approach in how pupils' needs at Greenway are supported.

Premises: We support the school in monitoring a rolling programme of improvements and we are very pleased to have Governor Nick Brown's expertise as a qualified surveyor on the Governing Body. Whilst possibly not immediately obvious to parents a huge amount of work has been undertaken to upgrade the hot water system in the older parts of the school which has been welcomed by all staff and pupils. The Early Years classroom toilets have been modernised and the Crittal windows in the hall have been smartened up. The office staff have been very pleased with the re-designing of their working environment and extra storage space has been created to great effect elsewhere in the school. The school's site manager, John Rapson, remains vital to ensuring the smooth running of all these various projects (and lots of minor ones) and we thank him for this.

Parent Forum: We would like to thank all parents/carers who have been on Parent Forum this year and all those who have fed views in to their representatives. The Greenway Parent Forum continues to prove an effective method of communication between school and parents and we are grateful to Governor Nigel Wiggins for chairing this so effectively.

GSA: Governors have been pleased to work with the school and GSA in supporting many fund-raising events. The money raised has been invaluable in a wide variety of ways e.g. new benches in the playground, refurbishment of the gazebo and the picnic bench shelter, new musical instruments, a computerised library cataloguing system and some exciting new outdoor play equipment which will be installed this



summer. It has also helped fund additional I-pads which have been of particular use in the delivery of the Lexia literacy support programme.

Governor training: All Governors undertake training annually to support them in their roles and responsibilities and regularly visit the school to monitor areas of the School Plan not least this year to consider the introduction of P4C and around e-Safety and in particular the policy adopted by the school and how this is dealt with within the curriculum etc. There have also been visits associated around special educational needs provision; the use and impact of Pupil Premium funding; data; the quality of teaching and learning; art week; science and sports provision; statutory health and safety and safeguarding visits; and attendance at school events such as assemblies and parental workshops.

School Website: Governors and school leaders are keen to keep the school website up to date with school activities and hope that parents have found it of interest and use over the past school year – there has certainly been a huge amount going on for every year group with plenty of exciting off site residential and day trips. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all staff and parent/carer volunteers for facilitating these trips and giving the children so many happy memories.

Health and Wellbeing Survey 2017: Governor Beth Baylay has been instrumental in developing a slightly different form of questionnaire this year and we are really grateful to everyone who completed this. A detailed analysis of the survey findings has been carried out by year group and gender to make sure that we know how best to target resources and Sport Premium funding to help improve the quality, amount and breadth of PE and sport at Greenway. We received 224 completed surveys (106 boys and 118 girls) which represents 64.2% of all Greenway children. We had a strong response from all year groups, covering a wide range of levels and types of participation and from a good spread of boys and girls.

The responses to the first six questions taken from the annual pupil questionnaire showed a very positive increase from the 2016 responses. The headline findings from the PE/sport related questions are as follows:

- Over 663 hours 30 mins of extra-curricular sport are undertaken each week by those that responded to the survey ('respondees'). This is an average of 2hours 54 minutes of sport outside of school lessons per week per child for boys and 3 hours per week per child for girls.
- 34% of respondees find PE hard work and challenging,
- 69% of respondees also know what to do next in lessons and school sport to get better at PE which we note represents a significant improvement (from 44%) last year;
- 84% of all respondees said 'Yes' they are confident about trying new PE activities and sports.
- some respondees undertake at least 4 different extra-curricular sports each week;



- the most popular extra-curricular sport across all year groups is swimming;
- overall the additional sports that our respondees said they were most interested in doing more of at school were rugby and tennis.
- 55% of our respondees (rising to 61% in Year 2) said they would do more sport if they had more free time.
- 72% (peaking at 100% for Year 3) of respondees also said they would do more sport if friends did it with them.
- overall in most years generally boys are doing a wider range of sports than girls.

We have also undertaken a staff survey this year which was coordinated by Governor Alison Hoffman and are grateful to staff for their support with this.

Sport: We have been delighted to note the even greater increase in sporting opportunities for children in the school this year, ably led by Mr Loczy and our sports specialist Mr Lewis who started as our sports apprentice and now works as a teaching assistant. There have been many sporting successes but we wish to specifically congratulate the Year 6 girls' table tennis team, which progressed as far as the regional finals, eventually becoming runners up. The Year 5/6 boys' cricket team, who took part in the regional finals and came fourth and lastly, the Year 5/6 boys football team won the District cup. We will continue to monitor the use of Sports Premium funding and provision of sport across the school next year.

Music and Other Achievements: We have been very pleased to hear from the Headteacher of the wonderful musical occasions enjoyed by so many of the children throughout the year culminating recently in a fantastic end of year concert in the Ashlyns Chapel.

We wish all staff leaving the school this year the very best of luck in their new roles and in particular Mrs Crozier who we have very much enjoyed working with on the Governing Body. We are looking forward to working with the school in the new academic year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.  
Kind regards,

Elizabeth O'Reilly  
Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body



