



Governor Newsletter

July 2021

We wish all our families and staff a restful and much needed holiday this summer. As we all know, the last year has been a strange and challenging one for our school community. For students and their families and for staff, new ways of working together have been developed and have proved in large measure successful.

But now we are faced with the new issues of the return to school and making up for the inevitable loss of learning. We hope that the extra resources need from government will be forthcoming.

It has been the job of the school's local governing body, despite these issues, to hold the school's senior leaders to account, while acting as a critical friend and offering support where needed. We have held eight meetings during this academic year to check that:

- appropriate risk assessments have been put in place to safeguard our young people and staff.
- that the standard of teaching and learning remains high despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.
- the ongoing development of our school, particularly the new sixth form and the next phase of the building project remain on track.

A special well done to our hardworking Year 11s for their results!

Gwen Sinnott and Ros Jones have been monitoring pupils' academic progress and the quality of teaching & learning at the school. We look forward to our first GCSE results this year and congratulate our Year 11 students who, despite all the obstacles, we believe, will produce an outstanding set of results in August.

Change of school leadership

As parents and carers will know, we are saying goodbye to Alex Crossman, our outstanding Headteacher, who has led the school to becoming one of the most oversubscribed and successful secondary schools in South London. Rebecca Hardy, as Deputy Headteacher, who is also moving on, has put in place a caring and disciplined pastoral system which has looked after each new year group. We wish them both the very best for the future.

We are delighted to welcome Alison Harbottle, our new Head of School from September. Alison will be working with Executive Headteacher, Christian Hicks, who will oversee both Charter Schools. Nathaniel Wilson will also be joining the senior leadership team in September as Deputy Head of School.

Governing Body and link responsibilities

Each member of the local governing body (LGB) has a particular brief.

- **Stephen Potter** – Chair
- **Gwen Sinnott** – Vice Chair, Outcomes and Maths
- **Ros Jones** – Teaching, Learning and English
- **Celia Johnson-Sakeld** – Safeguarding
- **James Chemirmir** – Careers
- **Laura Duffell** – SEND and Mental Health
- **Oseme Odehomo** – Staff
- **Pip Jupp** – Staff
- **Fathey Mikhael** – Community
- **Catherine Rose** – Premises
- **Nadya Morgenstern** – Business

Members of the LGB can be contacted via Carrie Fentum, Clerk to the LGB at cfentum@tcsed.org.uk.

New parent governors

Parent governor elections were held earlier this year. We were delighted to welcome **James Chemirmir** as a new face on the LGB and to welcome back **Celia Johnson-Sakeld**, who has played a vital role over the past period as safeguarding link governor (see above).

Diversity and the governing body

The events following the death of George Floyd have reminded that we benefit as a governing body from the rich diversity of our school community. We are aiming for our governing body to be broadly representative of the school community both in terms of gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation. Trust governors have received unconscious bias training. In November, governors from across The Charter Education Trust met online to discuss;

“What is one thing you would like to change in terms of racial injustice? And why is it important to you personally?”

From this listening exercise campaigns have been launched in each school in the Trust culminating in the launch of anti-racist manifesto. **Fetheya Mikhail** is leading our work on Community.

Growth of the Trust

Following Charles Dickens Primary School joining The Charter School Education Trust last year, three other primary schools have now joined the Trust; The Belham, Dulwich Hamlet and Lyndhurst.

The Chairs of the six schools' governing bodies, including **Stephen Potter**, will meet termly in a Chairs' Forum with the Chair of the Trust Board to share best practice, discuss common areas of concern and advise the Trustees on important issues at school level.

Special Educational Needs

Laura Duffell, while busy in her role leading staff welfare at Kings, has been focusing on SEND provision at the school. We have been drawing attention to the very unequal distribution of children with high levels of special needs across the authority, with our school taking large numbers and some other secondary schools none at all. Our local MP Helen Hayes has written underlining our concerns



Phase 2 Build.

Catherine Rose has been chairing the project group for Phase Two of our school building programme. In September 2021, there will be three multi-games areas for playing sports. During 2022, the Victorian 'chateau' building will be refurbished and another modern block completed which will house office space and further school facilities including a drama and music suite. The pandemic had some impact on the timescale, but building is now underway with speed.

Other roles of the governing body

Oseme Odehomo and **Pip Jupp** keep the governors informed on staff welfare, a crucial issue following the stresses of the Covid period. **Nadya Morgenstern** has a watching brief on the business affairs of the school.

The local governing body also establishes panels to hear appeals against school decisions on exclusions and complaints.

We also monitor how the school is using additional funding received for Pupil Premium and other “catch-up” budgets such as Year 7 literacy, and the ‘Covid catch-up premium’