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Colossians 3:17



Governing Board Newsletter

Letter from the Chair - Stephanie Ajayi Strategic Update



Firstly, huge thanks to all the staff for their hard work this term and to all those families who give up their time to support the school by volunteering, fundraising and sharing knowledge and experience with the children. In particular this term, the children have enjoyed the many clubs on offer, visits by Police and Fire and engaged fully in British Science Week and World Book Day as well as engaged in a fundraiser for Water Aid. A visit by Bishop Graham was also a talking point. The Full Governing Body and committees continued to meet virtually to discuss progress against our strategic priorities and objectives. Each governor is actively involved in the life of the school and bring together expertise that support the work of the school for the benefit of the children. Governors are regularly taking part in a wide range of training programmes run by the Local Authority and LDBS. Courses completed this term include Safeguarding and New Governors Introductory Course. All governors sit on at least 1 committee and the main purpose of these are as follows:

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring the school is financially stable and has standing items on the agenda that include staffing structure, budget, health and safety, sites and premises and catering.

The Curriculum Committee

The curriculum Committee reviews the school improvement plan and looks at specific initiatives such as the Catch-up premium to support pupils learning as well as monitors performance data and supports curriculum planning

The Pay & Personnel Committee

This Committee has responsibility for all personnel and in particular focuses on staffing, pupils, wellbeing and mental health, census and the safeguarding audit.

As we end another term, we are saying goodbye to a governor and member of staff who have both made an enormous contribution to the life of the school. Firstly, our prayers and thanks go to Rev Ali Walton, who for years has worked tirelessly to drive forward the strategic vision of the school. Ali has been a fantastic support to the school and to me personally. School governors do an amazing and important role much of which happens

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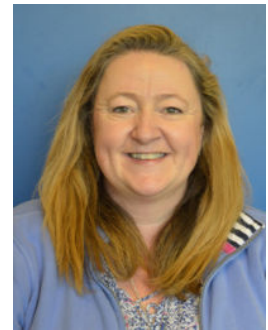


against the backdrop of other day to day commitments. I'd also like to offer our thanks to Mr Guy for his commitment and service to the Blue School not only as Assistant Head Teacher responsible for transforming the SEND provision but also in his capacity as a staff governor for the valuable contribution made over many years. We wish both Rev Ali and Mr Guy even greater success and joy in their future endeavours.

Finally, I would also like to extend thanks on behalf of the governing body to teachers, support staff, parents and carers for the support you provide as we provide the nurturing environment in which all children can thrive. We hope you had a restful break and look forward to the summer term ahead.

Link Governor Report - Lavinia Pashley-Wilkins - Foundation Governor

During the Spring term, in my capacity as Link Governor for Foundation Subjects, I have been working closely with our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Subject Leads at The Blue School. The four subjects I support through Link Governor are ICT, Geography, History and French.



We are now 4 years into a 5-year implementation of our curriculum, led by Assistant Headteacher Mr Joel Kelly. I have met with Mr Kelly on numerous occasions to discuss the curriculum in great detail, ensuring that we have a robust and inclusive coverage, that scaffolds the children's subject knowledge across all year groups, as well as provides appropriate challenge, depth and breadth of skills and is inclusive for all our children.

The subject leads are all passionate about the areas that they lead, each having extensive personal interest and / or expertise in the subjects and their development, and there is a continuous programme of monitoring, training, reflection and assessment to ensure that an age-appropriate programme is delivered for all the children regardless of starting points, experience or ability.

What is apparent is that it has been exceptionally challenging for the children, and parents, over the last two years with lockdown and home-schooling and the SLT and Key Stage leads are very aware of the gaps in children's learning that has been created due to the pandemic.

Following the return to school last September, intervention and 'catch up' programmes have been swiftly implemented following a period of assessment to identify gaps in learning, thus reducing the impact on the children and enabling them to meet their targets with minimal disruption. Whilst we may see the effects of the pandemic for some time to come regarding personal, social and emotional development in our youngest children,

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there are a number of ongoing interventions in place to continue to support those children still facing challenges.

I am in the fortunate position of being able to visit the school on a regular basis, and privileged to speak with the children directly about their learning which they are keen to do. The best conversations are in the dinner hall or playground unless I am competing with a MUGA slot in which case the chances are slim to none that the children will engage! It is clear that the children are proud to be part of Blue as I walk around the school.

A conversation with some of our Year 6 cohort, shortly after their secondary school places had been announced, led to a discussion about how prepared they felt about the next stage of their education journey. Unanimously, they were articulate and succinct at attributing the success that they had achieved to the things that they learn about at school, hard work, the support and encouragement of their families and the relationships that they have with their class teachers and staff at the school.

We are truly blessed by an exceptionally hard working and dedicated Teaching Team who are passionate about all that they do and continually strive to do things even better. I look forward to further exploring my Link Governor role by participating in lessons across the year groups in the Summer Term in order to see the children in action.

School Food Matters - Stuart Minster - LDBS Governor

As you may know, the school's food provider Chartwells, has not been meeting the high standards expected by both teachers and students.

Rachel Jones with Governors, invited Chartwells in to discuss the issues and our planned action should nothing improve. The result of this meeting was an apology plus a commitment to get better. As part of our monitoring process, we drafted a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for the supplier, established a School Council comprising The Blue School (TBS) students, and nominated a Food Champion, Marcus Guy. On a daily basis we now ask students to score their meals (Great, Good, Poor) and we give feedback to Chartwells.



Although there has been improvement, Ms Jones, Mr Guy and the Governors have decided to go to the market with an enhanced requirements document inviting suppliers, as recommended by School Food Matters, to tender their offers including the what, how and how much. This process will be complete by the end of this school year and we hope that a successful supplier will be onboard by September 2022 to provide an excited TBS with its daily requirement of tasty and healthy delights.

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As soon as we know the result and execute the contract, you will be advised.

Curriculum update - Joel Kelly Assistant Head Curriculum and Teaching

The curriculum continues to be something that we are exceptionally proud of at The Blue School. Every subject leader works consistently alongside one another to create a board and balanced curriculum. Knowledge organisers are now an integral part of how we prepare for, use with and reflect upon lessons. It is because of this that we have witnessed a clear progression in both the children's knowledge and vocabulary. Our sequenced curriculum documents show clear progression in both knowledge and skills as the children go through the school. These documents follow the National Curriculum guidelines and are further enhanced by our local area, diversity and role models.



Recently our curriculum teams, made up of groups of subject leaders and an assistant headteacher, worked together to review, plan, update and take snapshots of good practice within each subject. The drive, dedication and passion of the teachers are what make the curriculum what it is today.

The Year 6 Curriculum has been working alongside me to add 'expert videos' to the curriculum page of the school website. If you would like to add your expertise to our curriculum, please feel free to get in contact.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - Clair Couch - Staff Governor

In June we look forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee together as a school community. A committee has been formed of school staff and governors with plans already afoot for a day of celebration. We look to embody our school values of hope, wisdom, dignity and community in a range of activities celebrating our communities talents and interests including, art, music, history, as well as traditional games and a whole school picnic. Further information will be communicated after Easter.



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Meetings for academic year 2021/2022

Full Governing Board Meeting	Curriculum Committee	Pay and Personnel Committee	Finance and Building Committee
13th October	28th September	29th September	30th September
8th December	16th November	17th November	18th November
23rd February	8th February	2nd February	3rd February
15th June	24th May	25th May	26th May

Please follow the link to the website for more information on the day to day work of the Governing Board. [Governor Page](#)

NOTE

We welcome comments from parents directly and letters should be addressed to the Chair and delivered or emailed to the school office. Whilst we welcome letters and value your comments, we will be unable to respond to issues relating to the day to day running of the school.