

Governor Lines

The Governors are very keen to improve the communication between the academy, governors, parents and carers. At our last meeting, we agreed to introduce “**Governor Lines**” so that we can update you on the latest items that the Governors have been discussing and to introduce you to the work of the Full Governing Body. As Chair of governors I am very keen on this.

1. Parent Forums

These have been introduced to give Parents and Carers the opportunity to meet with the Head and Governors to engage in a two way consultation on the progress being made by the academy. Sadly these have not been as well attended as hoped. Please do let us know why you have not attended – is it:

- a. The time – if yes what would be your preferred time?
- b. The day of the week – if yes – which is the best day for you?
- c. Did not receive the message in time
- d. Other reasons

The Governors want to know what is on your mind – do tell us! The dates for the year are on the Events section of the Dorcan Academy Website.

2. Change of Governors

Recently **Donald Day**, **Jenny Smith** and **Maria Sly** have stepped down from the Governing Body. They have given many years of service to the academy between them and I thank them for their contribution to the work of the governing body.

The following new Governors have joined us:

Pat Porter – specialising in Safeguarding, Discipline and SEND. She is a highly experienced Governor.

Andria Thomas – she is a Human Resources Specialist and has much experience in both business and education. She will be joining our Staffing Committee.

John Walker – has much experience in the world of finance and has been a Finance Governor at another academy for twelve years. He is joining our Finance Committee.

3. Financial Update

At the end of the financial year we will have a very small rollover. However, as with the vast majority of the schools in the country, the Government cuts make balancing the books harder each year and Dorcan is no exception to that. The Finance Committee will be

working hard to address this situation positively; however, it is likely that some tough decisions will need to be taken.

4. New Behaviour Policy – “Ready to Learn”

The Governors have been consulted on the new policy and have given the Head and Staff their full support on this. We would ask all Parents and Carers to give the academy their full support in the implementation of this policy. Its sole purpose is to ensure that every student has the best possible opportunity in which to learn.

5. Review of Governance

The Governors are always concerned that they are acting in the best interests of the academy. To this end, the Governors invited a National Leader in School Governance to conduct a review of our performance.

She commended the Governors on the progress already made. Her report has been fully considered by the Governors and progress has already been made on implementing suggested actions.

6. Pupil Premium

This is the additional amount the Government provides for the school for those students who have special needs or are disadvantaged. The Governors are charged with ensuring that it is correctly spent. They are satisfied that this is in order. However, we will continue to monitor the spending of this funding.

7. MAT (Multi Academy Trust) Update

Since October, the academy has been working with the **Excalibur Trust**, which is based at St John’s School Marlborough (an outstanding school in Ofsted Terms). This is with a view of joining them in September 2017.

Their support has been invaluable as the academy seeks to improve its overall performance. Your children will have seen members of the Excalibur Team visiting lessons. In addition, they are working with the Head and the Staff to assist them in achieving their vision.

Thank you for reading this first “Governor Lines”. Our aim is to publish an update after every Governors’ Meeting. If you have any comments, please do contact me via e-mail: governors@dorcan.co.uk or talk to one of us at the next Parents Forum on **Thursday 29th June 2017 at 6pm in the Main Hall at Dorcan.**

Phil Baker
Chair of Governors

June 2017