

Governor Lines 2 – July 17

Thank you to all the Parents / Carers who responded to our first edition of Governor Lines. I have sent a response to each one. Since the first edition of Governor Lines there have been two meetings of the Full Governing Board.

1. Parent Forums

On the 29th June we held our final Forum of the year. The focus was on the new Behaviour Policy. I was disappointed that only a small number of Parents / Carers came along. However those that did come made some very useful comments and these will be acted upon.

Our aim is to continue these next year and my hope is that they develop into a vibrant forum for an exchange of views on how we can all work together to ensure that each student of the academy is able to have the best possible education.

2. New Governor

We are constantly seeking to improve our Governor Team and I am pleased to announce that **Candida Gee** has agreed to join. She has a long experience in Education and is looking forward to supporting us in our work.

3. Financial Update

At our last meeting, we agreed the Budget for the forthcoming year. As with the vast majority of schools in the country, we are facing extremely challenging times in terms of our finances.

Our Finance Committee, along with our Chief Finance Officer are working very hard to ensure that we have sufficient funds in the future. We are extremely dependent on the number of students who attend the academy, our ability to attract further funding and boosting our income from lettings.

The Governors were pleased to hear that the Academy is fully staffed for 2017 – 18. This is a result of a great deal of hard work by those responsible for recruitment.

4. New Behaviour Policy – “Ready to Learn”

The Governors have received a report on the progress of the implementation of the new Behaviour Policy. Both students and staff have reported that the learning environment has greatly improved. The policy has enabled the lessons to proceed smoothly.

As anticipated, after an early spike in the number of students being put in isolation, this has now begun to fall as students fully grasp the clear boundaries that have been set. During this

trial period, a number of issues have been raised which are being resolved in order that the policy can be fully implemented in September.

The Governors will continue to monitor this policy and are looking forward to receiving proposals in the Autumn to enhance our current Rewards policy. Above all, the Governors are grateful for the support of the overwhelming number of parents / carers for this new policy.

5. SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

The Governors were pleased to receive a highly detailed report on this area. It was apparent, that despite reductions in funding, our SEND team are giving amazing support to our students. At the last Ofsted, this area was praised and we are confident that it continues to give good quality support to our students.

It was reported to us that the new Behaviour Policy has helped our SEND students as there is less disruption to their learning environment.

The Governors were extremely pleased to hear the outcomes of the residential trip that was organised for a number of our SEND students. This has really boosted their confidence.

The Governors were pleased to note that it was not just the SEND team who supported these students but that all staff play their part in seeking to support them to the best of their ability.

6. Review of Governance

The Governors continue to work through the recently agreed Action Plan. As part of that each Governor has the opportunity to discuss their work as a Governor with the Chair.

The level of commitment of the Governors of this academy is excellent. It includes attending Full Governing Board meetings and Committee meetings as well as reading all the paperwork, attending training sessions, meetings with key members of staff along with attending school events.

7. School Development Plan (SIP)

This is a key document which contains the strategies that have been planned to take the Academy forward in the next year. The Governors have been consulted on the contents of it and will be monitoring its implementation.

8. MAT (Multi Academy Trust) Update

We continue to work with Excalibur Trust. The proposal for Dorcan to join the trust will be discussed at the next meeting of the Regional Schools Commissioner's Headteacher Board in September.

The Governors have very much appreciated the support that Excalibur has given the Academy over the last six months.

8. Safeguarding

The academy has recently had an audit of our Safeguarding procedures. This raised a number of issues which are being followed up. As a requirement of the latest Safeguarding regulations the academy will ask visitors to the school to show some form of identity. As a result our receptionists are being asked to enforce this policy where appropriate. If you are collecting a student from reception during school hours please remember to bring photographic identification with you.

9. Parent Governor vacancy

If you are interested in considering becoming a governor, please do speak to Anne Cleary, the Clerk to the Governors. She can be contacted via the academy.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all parents / carers for their support over the last year. The Governors are extremely pleased with the direction that the academy is moving in. They recognise that a vast amount of work has been done by the Headteacher and the staff in the last twelve months to bring about the many positive changes that have been achieved.

It is by the Governors, the Head and Staff and Parents / Carers working together that we can improve the opportunities of all our students to aspire to greatness. I do look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year at various school events and especially at the Parent Forums.

Phil Baker
Chair of Governors

July 2017

