

## **Governors' Newsletter December 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers

Merry Christmas everyone. We hope you and your families have all had a happy and enjoyable Autumn term, and have been able to enjoy the Christmas Fair, nativities, carol services, and other festivities at Queen's in the lead up to the Christmas break.

### **Progress with Vision Priorities**

As we begin to embed our new Vision Priorities, we celebrate the excellent results from statutory assessments in Summer 2022. Although no comparative league tables between other schools are being published this year, we know that compared to the National results, The Queen's School has achieved significantly above National in the majority of the curriculum and is in the top 20% of schools for attainment in KS2 reading, writing and maths. Please see the school website for more details of achievements across the year groups.

Our Curriculum & Standards and Pastoral & Kairos committees continue to work closely with the school to monitor progress and attainment as well as mental health and wellbeing, and to support the successful embedding of the new curriculum and quality first teaching. Across the Board we are progressing with work on diversity and inclusion, supporting the needs of different pupil groups, and the long term environmental sustainability of the school. We are looking ahead to future SIAMs and OFSTED inspections in due course, both of which will be on new, tougher, grade requirements.

### **Changing to The King's School**

The framework for our exciting transition to The King's School is now largely in place, in line with our school vision of sustainability. Governors and school leaders have been working together closely to ensure that the practicalities of the name change have minimal impact both financially and environmentally on our school community, suppliers, and partners. We had a very positive response to the callout for designing the new logo, and the chosen design will be unveiled in the new year; along with other exciting developments around uniform, timing for the transition, and how we plan to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II and her legacy.

### **Strengthening our school/church connections**

Over the past year, both school and Governing Board have welcomed Revd. Melanie and Fr Giles to our community, and this is providing a great opportunity to deepen our relationship with our local churches, and for Queen's to continue to develop and expand its distinct Christian ethos. A Prayer tree has been installed in the ground floor corridor with classes tasked with updating it regularly each term. Reflection zones and Prayer areas are in each classroom. Our Collective Worship programme continues to go from strength to strength with singing on Mondays, a visit from one of our three local Vicars on Tuesdays, a consideration of topical current affairs on a Wednesday, exploring a specific cultural topic on Thursdays before the ceremony of the Queens Shield and celebration of achievement each Friday. Into 2023, the

School is planning further integration with our local Churches in order to further enhance the links to the local Church community and more updates shall be shared early next term.

### **Governor News**

This term we have been joined by two new governors and an associate member.

St Anne's PCC has appointed our new Foundation Governor, **Auriol Hale**, over the summer. Auriol is the deputy headteacher at St Mary's C of E in Norwood Green and we welcome the breadth of her experience as an educator, and perspectives from a different school, that she brings to our Curriculum & Standards Committee. We also welcome **Kennan Michel** to the Board as a co-opted governor, recruited for his finance and legal skills, and his previous experience as a primary school governor. Kennan is a strong addition to our Finance Committee.

In addition, our deputy headteacher, **Ms Verge** has joined the Board as an associate member.

### **Finances**

The Governing Board, via the Finance Committee, is responsible for the careful stewardship of school finances. We work very closely with the Headteacher and the School Business Manager to ensure we align our budget allocations with our Vision Priorities.

As is clear from the news, school finances across the country are increasingly difficult to balance with costs rising more quickly than funding. We are not exempt from those pressures but we are fortunate that we have strong policies around value for money and a reasonable level of reserves thanks to a handful of regular external donations and an energetic and generous PSA. We regularly benchmark our key financial data against other local schools and similar schools across the country. This enables us to ensure that we are in line or better than most, and that we understand and take action if we find that we are not. Energy costs are something we have looked at closely and have a robust provision in our budget to respond to any further increases.

Moving into the next term, we look forward to playing a key role in the name change project to ensure that there is no cost to the school.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and successful New Year.

**Inga Hall, Chair of Governors, 14 December 2022**