



Termly Update from Fairway's Governing Board **Autumn 2019**

Welcome to the Autumn Term newsletter from the Local Governing Board (LGB) of Fairway Primary Academy.

The Academy has had a very busy term and we have been delighted with the impact so far of a fully staffed senior leadership team with Mrs Rowlands moving to a full time position as Assistant Headteacher and Mrs Davis now being permanently based at Fairway. This provides essential support, not only to the Head teacher, but also to the continual improvement of Academy life for all of the children.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the full LGB are now meeting only termly. This is supported by a business setting meeting in September and termly meetings of the 3 sub-committees. At the business setting meeting this year the full LGB received their annual safeguarding update.

All members of the LGB have completed the annual review process with the Chair as well as a skills audit which has resulted in some changes to link roles and committee memberships. Sally Roberts has joined the Curriculum committee and Rachel Fasham will be overseeing the curriculum review along with monitoring Sex and Relationships Education. From October we also welcomed a new clerk from SIPS Education, Ruth Mashiter. She will be supporting the full LGB meetings and the Resource committee meetings along with any panels that may be required during the year.

The Academy self-evaluation and improvement plan has been reviewed and approved – this highlights both areas of strength and areas that require improvement within The Academy. It is against this document that we monitor progress throughout the year. Senior leaders have presented data relating to pupil progress for all year groups and, more specifically, for those with additional educational needs, which has been scrutinised and challenged. The Curriculum Committee has reviewed the SATs results from last year and is pleased with the action plan that is in place for this year. It is also monitoring the progress of the general curriculum overhaul that is currently underway. The Policies Committee has been working hard to ensure that The Academy maintains an appropriate bank of policies and procedures including those written locally and those provided by University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust (UWMAT). The Resources Committee have the unenviable job of monitoring the budget which is becoming increasingly tight and have tasked The Academy with finding innovative ways of supporting the curriculum for your children. The recent replacement of lighting throughout The Academy should help to reduce our electricity bills and we were delighted to learn that the application for a School Library Scheme grant was successful resulting in £4,000 to spend on books. We would also like to acknowledge the incredible efforts by Friends of Fairway which have enabled a much needed refurbishment of the outside area for Reception children and we are very grateful for their continued support and the contributions they are able to make.

Visits by link governors have taken place and reports compiled in the following areas: health and safety, safeguarding and Artsmark. Two governors were involved in the appointment of Head Pupil which has become a welcome addition to the LGB calendar. A number of governors also attended an open morning in November where we were treated to a whole school assembly celebrating Black History Month. This showcased the confidence of so many children in public speaking as well as being an important part of the curriculum in highlighting the diversity of our community. After a walk round of The Academy we met with children from KS2 who have been trained as peer mediators and play leaders to hear about the work they do

to help make playtimes fun and more peaceful for all children. This is part of a wider strategy to improve behaviour and attitudes to learning generally throughout The Academy and we are pleased with the impact that this has had already.

The head teacher's appraisal committee met to review the performance of the head teacher last year and set objectives for the coming year. This was facilitated by an independent external advisor and all involved felt that this was extremely beneficial. We are extremely pleased with the impact Mrs Williams has made particularly in relation to a successful Ofsted outcome and with her ongoing plans to improve leadership at all levels throughout the Academy. Progress towards this year's objectives will be monitored in the Spring term.

In November, we reluctantly said goodbye to one of our community governors who had come to the end of her term of office. Over the last 4 years Carmel Corrigan has provided immense support to the Academy through her previous experience on school governing boards as well as her knowledge of supporting children in need and she will be hugely missed. This does mean that we are now advertising **2 vacancies for community governors**. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in joining our LGB please pass their details on to the Chair via the Academy office. We are particularly looking for applicants who may have a background in business or finance and experience of leadership roles. For any parents who may be interested in joining us, there will be some vacancies arising late in the year so please look out for information about these in the weekly Academy newsletter.

Finally, we hope you all have a relaxing and fun festive break and we look forward to continuing to support The Academy in 2020!



Details about members of the Fairway Governing Board can be found on the Academy website along with previous newsletters and further information about the work that we do. We welcome feedback from all stakeholders and if you have any queries or comments about anything we have done this term please contact the Chair via the Academy office.

