



## Termly Update from Fairway's Governing Board Spring 2019

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

It seems fitting to start this newsletter by congratulating the entire staff and student body of Fairway on being awarded **GOOD** status from our Ofsted inspection in February. This was well deserved recognition of the hard work that goes on every day to ensure that your children receive the education they deserve. In particular, I'd like to quote the following from the inspector's report:

*"Staff form a hard-working and committed team. They are proud to work in the school."*

*"Parents hold the school in high regard."*

*"The LGB have a good range of appropriate skills. They know the school well and are clear about the actions being taken to address weaknesses."*

*"Safeguarding has a high priority and is well led."*

A number of governors were interviewed by the inspector as part of the process. The report identified some "next steps" and the LGB is committed to working with the Academy to ensure that these are achieved as quickly as possible to continue the improvement journey.

The full LGB have met twice this term with each of the committees meeting once. Following on from the Ofsted success it has been agreed that going forward in to the next academic year the LGB will meet only once a term. Mark Atherton has resigned from his post as community governor due to increased work commitments. The LGB would like to express it's thanks to him for 5 years of service to Fairway including leadership of the Finance committee. As a result of this there have been some changes to link governor roles. Sally Roberts now takes on responsibility for numeracy while Sarah Crooks has become the link governor for safeguarding.

In order to maintain standards and ensure governors are appropriately trained for their roles a number of courses have been attended this term. Toby Deakin attended an evening dedicated to Sports Premium and has been liaising with Dawn Hartford as PE lead on how to ensure that this money is being used effectively. Dawn Hartford and Elizabeth Hammett-Kay attended their induction course. Dawn has also received training in relation to her role as Health and Safety governor. Refresher training on the PREVENT agenda has been provided to the whole LGB.

Aside from the usual LGB business a number of other meetings have been held. The head teacher's mid-year performance review has been carried out and the LGB is satisfied that Mrs Williams is on track with the objectives that were set back in September. The Chair and Mrs Williams met with SIPS Education to discuss ways in which the LGB could run even more effectively and some changes have already been put in to place. The Chair has also been working with parents to resolve some concerns.

Governors have been supporting Academy events and were represented at the Friends of Fairway quiz night in a number of teams – congratulations to staff governor, Elizabeth Hammett-Kay on being part of the winning team! Governors have also been present at assemblies, inspire workshops and at reading events. The highlight this term though has to be the Governors open morning in which considerable time was spent

simply “being” in school and absorbing the atmosphere of a normal school day. We were hosted by the head boy and girl and their deputies who were all fantastic ambassadors for Fairway. All of the children were a delight and particular thanks must go to the members of School Council who spoke to us so eloquently and openly on a number of issues that concerned them. We look forward to more visits like this in the future.

As you are aware, following a period of ill health, Ms Penhallow left the Academy this term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her contributions and commitment to Fairway over a number of years and to wish her well in the future. The LGB are currently working with the head teacher to secure a replacement for this post.

To finish we would like to congratulate the Fairway Foxes on winning the UWMAT English quiz – this was a great achievement as our team were from year 5 competing against year 6 teams from the other schools – well done to all involved!

We hope you all have a relaxing Easter break and return refreshed for the final term of this year



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.