

Chair of Governors' Report to Parents and Carers October 2018

I'm pleased to provide you with this report at the end of the first term in the current academic year.

It has been a very busy and important term for governors as we embarked on a rigorous selection process to appoint a worthy successor to Roger Whitewick when he retires from his position as head teacher of Holbrook School at the end of December.

We have also, of course, continued to devote time to fulfilling our wider and ongoing responsibilities. Whilst the minutes of all governing body meetings are available for anyone wishing to see them, I have summarised below the work of each committee this term.

The full governing body met in September when we considered the evidence presented to support this year's initial school self evaluation judgements. We also endorsed the first action plans produced by school leaders as well as agreeing a governors' improvement plan for the autumn terms. The school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator had prepared an updated Special Educational Needs Policy and Information Report for us to consider and these have subsequently been posted to the school website as legally required.

The performance and standards committee met at the beginning of October when the Mathematics and English Subject Leaders presented their action plans for block one (10 week period). The committee sought clarification on the rationale for the introduction of the new handwriting scheme and on when the revised calculation policy would be in use across the school. The committee also endorsed the Science and Special Educational Needs action plans for block one and approved the final self evaluation statements which had been revised in response to suggestions from governors following the full governing body meeting.

The finance committee met on 22 October, primarily to fulfil its responsibility to monitor the school budget at regular intervals throughout the year. As this committee also has responsibility to ensure a number of key school policies are in place and regularly reviewed, at this meeting we approved 2 new policies required to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). We approved policies relating to staff and governors' use of social media and electronic devices.

The premises committee also met on 22 October to review progress being made against a number of action plans related to school premises and to consider premises related policies due for review by this committee. The committee was pleased to note that that the perimeter fencing at the front of the school would soon be replaced.

Finally, the governing body was delighted to learn recently that the Japanese Foundation had invited our head teacher to speak about the teaching of Japanese at Holbrook School at a National Conference. It's clear that the introduction of Japanese as the Modern Foreign Language taught at Holbrook is attracting much interest across the country and we know that our pupils have impressed visitors, competition judges (and even waiters at Wagamama!) with their understanding of the Japanese language. I'm sure you will be as pleased as the governing body is that Holbrook school has gained national recognition in this area and will want to join us in congratulating the head teacher for leading this innovative approach that has resulted in such good outcomes for Holbrook pupils.

I hope you and your children enjoy the holiday period.

Margaret Hunt, Chair of Governors

24 October 2018