

Chair's Newsletter December 2017

As we approach Christmas and the well-deserved holidays, we look back on a term of high achievements in the school as well as looking forward to what 2018 holds in store.

Governors

There have been a number of governor changes since the summer newsletter, with several governors coming to the end of their term of office and new governors joining the FGB.

At the beginning of the term, we welcomed back Father Nigel as incumbent, we were joined in November by James Merel as Staff Governor and in December by Bethany Claus Widick as a new Parent Governor. This meant that we sadly said goodbye to Vicky O'Neill as Staff Governor, Lucy Gradillas as Parent Governor and Liz Holden Bithell as LA Governor. We thank them all for the amazing contribution they have made to the school over the years. The handover of their various responsibilities has been planned, with Emma Roberts taking over as Pastoral Chair and SEND Governor and Cathy Christmas taking on the management of our policy schedule. Mark Ollard has agreed to replace Liz Holden Bithell as our LA Governor and in the new year we will begin recruiting for a new Co-opted Governor. A full list of Governors can be found in the *About Us* section of the website.

The School Vision

Since January this year, we have been planning and working towards setting new long-term Vision Priorities with specific priorities for 2017-2019. This was done in collaboration with staff, parents, wider stakeholders and with input from the children. We completed these at the end of last term and now have a new set of Vision Priorities. These are:

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| Learning and Teaching | To provide an inspiring, stimulating and inclusive environment, instilling a love of learning to enable each child to achieve academically and creatively; made possible by valued, mutually supportive and committed staff. |
| The Whole Child | To empower each child to be independent, confident, thoughtful and resilient. Grounded in Christian values and well equipped for a future beyond The Queen's School. |
| Learning Environment | To make the most creative use of the internal and external space, providing each child with the best opportunities and a safe environment to develop intellectually, creatively, physically and emotionally. |
| The Queen's School Community | To be outward looking at the heart of our local community, sharing our expertise and working in partnership to enrich our children's appreciation of the wider world. |

A full version of our Mission, Vision and Vision Priorities can be found on the school website.

3G pitch

We are still in discussion with Richmond Borough Council's Planning Department regarding our Community Use Agreement (CUA) to enable us to begin external lettings of the 3G pitch. This will enable us to let out the pitch to generate much needed income at this time of uncertainty with government funding. We had anticipated being given a slot on the Planning Committee Agenda this term, however, for various reasons this hasn't happened. We are hopeful that we will be there at the January meeting and get a positive outcome. In readiness, we are putting together a Lettings Group to work on maximising our lettings potential within the confines of the CUA.

Achievements

Academically, the school continues to do very well, thanks to the hard work of both the staff and children. We have again featured in various league tables and are delighted to note, that The Queen's School remains towards the top end of these. Sporting success continues across the board as we make good use of our 3G turf pitch for team work, training and fitness.

Consultation on Proposed Admissions Criteria for 2019/20

The 6-week consultation period comes to an end on Thursday 21st December at 5 pm. If you have not yet responded and would like to do so, details of the proposed changes and how to respond are on the school website in the *About Us Section, Admissions*. In January, Admissions Committee will meet to consider all comments received and will communicate the outcome to all by February half term.

Christ's School Admissions

We have been notified by Christ's School that they have launched a new Admissions Policy consultation. You may remember that they revised their Admissions Policy at the beginning of this year and at the time acknowledged the possible impact on the children from The Queen's School. This new consultation seeks to address this and help local families. They are proposing to adjust the split of Foundation to Open places from 75 each to 50 Foundation places and 100 Open places. Based on their 2017 Admissions data, reducing the number of Foundation places would extend the distance of the initial Open offers from 1020m to 2291m, thus reducing uncertainty for a greater number of Queen's families making Open applications. We believe that this is a positive step forward and the FGB will be making a formal response. We would encourage as many parents as possible to respond in that way. The deadline for any comments is Friday, 31 January 2018, 5pm. You can find full details of the changes and how you can comment, on the Christ's School Website here:

<http://www.christs.richmond.sch.uk/992/201920-admissions-consultation>

Save the Date!

A celebration and blessing of the new school is planned for the summer term of 2018. The date will be **Wednesday 23rd May** and The Bishop of Croydon, Jonathan Clark has accepted our invitation to officiate. More details of how we plan to celebrate will follow in coming months. Watch this space.

Christmas

We have delighted in some wonderful performances this Christmas from the children at all levels to mark the coming of our Lord – from Early Years and their re-telling of the Christmas story with 'Noah's Ark', to Key Stage 1 with its version "The Bossy King" and the lovely Key Stage 2 Carol Service, at St Anne's on Tuesday. We have been treated to displays of, enthusiasm, talent, joyfulness and musicality which reflect so movingly on the aspirations of the School, bringing home to children and parents alike the true meaning of Christmas. Well done to all!

I'd like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Laura Coughtrie, Chair of Governors, 20th December 2017