



Co-Chairs' Newsletter December 2018

As we approach the festive season and the well-deserved Christmas holidays, we look back on a term of high achievements in the school as well as looking forward to what 2019 has in store.

Governor News

In September, we welcomed David Boddy to the Board as a new St Anne's Foundation Governor. David brings a number of skills to the Board through a career in education and senior management.

David Durie, who has been a Governor at Queen's since 2009, will be stepping down in December as a Foundation and Diocesan Governor. David's significant governance experience, wisdom and calm approach as a Governor, Deputy Chair and Co-Chair has provided the school and Governors alike with much valued support over the years. Our work at FGB, in committees, during phase visits, and at numerous school events have all been enriched by David being there. All is not lost however, we are delighted that David has agreed to stay on the Board as an Associate Governor and we will continue to benefit from his experience in Pay & Personnel and Pastoral Committees. A full list of our current Governors can be found in the *About Us* section of the website.

The School Vision

We are now in the second year of our long-term vision for the school. We made great progress last year and have provided, in the table below, some examples of the work that is happening in school to achieve our vision.

Vison Priority	Actions to achieve the Vision Priority	Examples of Progress in completing Actions
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.	Embedding Maths Mastery. In addition to running the well-attended sessions for parents, the school has joined the Maths hub for London Central and West to further develop our maths teaching skills across the whole school.
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 Certainties and the school's Christian values (love, compassion and respect) will be embedded and further developed. Learning Certainties are now used in collective worship and feature in all the work that the children do in school, with a focus on one Learning Certainty per half term.
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.	Clear planning to maximise access to outdoor learning, play and PE and to optimise the internal learning environment. Playground development is progressing well. (See further details below).
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 working group has launched Stage 1 of our drive to attract more volunteers from the parent community in to the school. Broader engagement with the wider community is currently being researched and ongoing.

A full version of our Mission, Vision and Vision Priorities can be found in the *About Us* section of the school website.

Achievements

Academically, the school continues to do well, thanks to the hard work of both the staff and children. We have again featured in various league tables most notably The Sunday Times top 250 state primary schools where we were delighted to note, that The Queen's School was ranked 134th in the country (a rise from 164th in 2017). Additionally, there is a link on the school's website to the recently published government Primary School's Performance tables 2018.

Further Development of the School Playground

We are delighted with the result of our recent bid to the Richmond National Schools' Trust (RNST) for playground development funding. We received £88,688.70 which means we now have funding to begin work on the Play Zone, the Fit Zone and the Growing Zone. We had already received quotes from a number of companies before the bid to the RNST was submitted, which means that the work can commence almost immediately. At our FGB meeting on Thursday 13th December the preferred suppliers were approved. The work will be done sequentially starting with the Growing and Play Zones and if all goes to plan the three new zones could be completed before the summer. A huge thanks must go to Mrs Stroud for the work she has done in securing this funding.

Environment and Air Quality

As a school and Board, we have been concerned for some time about air quality in and around the school playground, but particularly following an air pollution study undertaken by the London Sustainability Exchange (LSX). They reported that the air quality around the school is 'reasonable, with NO2 slightly above the legal limit during the term time', but that there were higher levels of NO2 detected along our border with the A206 (South Circular). Jason Andrews, the Air Quality Manager for the area, has recently visited the school and recommended that in order to reduce the pollution levels, we create a green wall - a combination of a wooden fence topped with a trellis and laurel planting, along our border with the A206. We are currently in the process of researching planning requirements and external funding to finance this initiative. Jason will continue to support us throughout the project.

In tandem with this, Caroline Roberts, one of our governors who has taken a governor lead on environmental issues, has been discussing with Miss Bentham some ways we can further develop our environmental credentials across the whole school, including reducing plastic and increasing our recycling and composting.

Progress in this area will be communicated to the school community over the coming year.

Christmas

We have delighted in some wonderful performances this Christmas from the children in all years to mark the coming of our Lord – from Early Years and their 'Countdown to Christmas' music extravaganza, the KS1 Nativity, 'The Hopeless Camel' and the beautiful Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service, at St Anne's. 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!

We'd like to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Inga Hall and Laura Coughtrie, Co-Chairs of Governors, 19th December 2018

