

## **Governors' Newsletter December 2019**

As we approach the festive season and the well-deserved Christmas holidays, we look back on a term of high achievements across the school, as well as looking forward to what 2020 has in store.

As we come to the end of the first term of our acting Co-Headship arrangement, we would like to say well done to Ms Demetriou and Ms Stroud-Turp for a great first term, during which they have welcomed a significant number of new staff members to Queen's, come to grips with the new OFSTED and SIAMS frameworks, progressed our key Vision priorities across the school and have also been a very accessible presence in the playground at drop off and pick up. We would also like to thank Miss Wilson, for her excellent work this term as acting Assistant Head.

### Governor News

Our thoughts and well wishes are with Father Nigel, who has recently undergone surgery. We expect to see him back at Queen's after the first few weeks of Spring term, but in the meantime he shall be missed.

Since September we have welcomed a number of new governors: Marian Mollett joins us as a St Anne's Foundation Governor. Marian is the Lay Chair of the Richmond and Barnes Deanery and has a background in finance and tax. Vasiles Polydorou also joins as the Barn Foundation Governor. He is an architect and also a parent at Queen's. We also welcome a new staff governor, Mrs Kodia (Reception) who takes over the role from Mr Merel, who we would like to thank for his time and contributions to the Governing Board's work.

We would also like to say an enormous thank you to Jean Utshudiema, who has recently stepped down at the end of his 4 year term as a co-opted governor. Jean has contributed widely, holding the position of chair of our Curriculum & Standards committee as well as serving on the Finance committee, acting as Treasurer to the Governors' Fund and being integral to the procurement of the 3G pitch.

We are also delighted to welcome Michelle Jones as our new clerk to governors, who has taken over the role from Pippa Anderson.

### The School Vision

We are continuing to work closely with the school during this 3rd year of our current Vision Priorities, which are (i) Learning and teaching; (ii) The whole child; (iii) The learning environment; and (iv) The Queen's School community.

As mentioned above, OFSTED introduced a new Education Inspection Framework, in which the new focus is also very 'whole child' focussed and we are working with the school to further develop the curriculum in light of the new OFSTED criteria to ensure clarity of objectives, the translation of those objectives into planning and learning, and making certain that pupils are prepared for the next stage in their education. The "whole child" priority looks 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.

### Achievements

Academically, the school continues to do very well, with our Key Stage 2 attainment in reading, writing and mathematics in both the expected standard and in greater depth/higher standard remains significantly above national standards and in the highest 20% of all schools in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Our KS1 and early years outcomes for the 2018 cohort was similarly strong. Further improvement across both progress and attainment measures for all groups of children, will remain a key priority for both the school and for governors, particularly through our Curriculum & Standards committee.

### Outdoor environment

We are very pleased to see the current phase of the outdoor learning and play environments near completion, with the finishing touches recently made to the playing field equipment, and the grow-zone beds ready for planting. It is lovely to see Nadia's Place being enjoyed by all, and we are delighted to see the completion of our green wall: a combination of a physical barrier and green planting which provides a visual and aural screen to the Mortlake Road as well as reducing pollution counts in the playground. The 3G pitch has also had its seasonal maintenance and been topped up with additional rubber to accommodate the high usage the pitch supports.

### Finance

Seeing all of this in place, it is worth reflecting on what can be achieved though the combination of dedicated effort by the school itself, the generosity of parents and the PSA, and also the opportunities which our connections with various funding sources make possible, that would otherwise not have been feasible using only the income the school receives from central government. For more information on the important issue of school finances, please see the school website here: [School Finance and Funding FAQ](#)

### Christmas

Lastly, we hope you and your children have been enjoying the array of festive treats, activities and church services as much as we have, from the very successful school fair on 7 December, the nativities, carol services, the shoe-boxes and other support we can provide to our community, and the Christmas lunches, nugget treats and Christmas jumpers!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

**Inga Hall and Bethany Claus Widick, Co-Chairs of Governors, 18 December 2019**