



## ***Foxhills Federation Board of Governors***

### ***Letter to parents April 2023***

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support to both schools during the Spring Term. It was a long busy one, during which staff and governors worked together towards consolidating our new federation. Staff and children really enjoyed Values Day; I had the great pleasure of being taken round the schools by two junior school children who were keen to explain their view of federation. Children in both schools were busy thinking about a new motto to compliment the new logo, they were extremely excited about this, and the new school uniform. They stressed the importance of the two schools working together to the benefit of all children for the seven years they are on the Foxhills Campus.

#### **Governors' actions during the Spring Term 2023**

We have now consolidated the structure of the board and the various committees have all met during the term, in addition to a full Board of Governors Meeting. We held an extra meeting to consider our budget, particularly in relation to increased fuel costs which have been impacting heavily on all schools, though, as we have moved forward, this has not been quite as bad as initially anticipated.

Boards of Governors in all schools must complete a Schools Financial Values Statement (SFVS) by March 30<sup>th</sup>. This is issued by, and returned to, HCC, and covers six areas of resource management – governance, budget, staffing, strategy, value for money and protecting public money. This process is designed to give assurance that the school is managing its resources effectively and can be utilised to identify possible areas for change to ensure that resources are employed to support high-quality teaching, thus providing the best education outcomes for pupils. The Infant and Junior schools have separate budgets, so the board had to complete two SFVS returns. The SFVS is a useful tool as it enables governors to review methodically these aspects of governance.

#### **Membership of the Board of Governors**

Tim Mead, who was a co-opted governor, resigned in January due to work commitments. Tim had two children in the Foxhills schools and was Health and Safety governor, having a particular expertise in this field. We thank him for his support to Foxhills. Katrina Kemp has kindly taken up this role and conducts termly H and S reviews with the Site Manager, reporting back to the Board.

The Board was pleased to co-opt Caroline Hubbard in early March. Caroline has considerable teaching experience in secondary education, and, more recently, worked as a teaching assistant in FJS, retiring in July 2022. She has taken up the role of governor with responsibility for monitoring all aspects of Additional Educational Needs, we welcome her to the Board and hope she enjoys this responsibility.

#### **Governor training**

Our planned training on 'Understanding the Primary Curriculum' that was due to take place in last November finally happened in January! The session was led by an experienced HCC Adviser in Education, and by Mrs. Howe. All governors attended, and thoroughly enjoyed this session. During the last term individual governors

have undertaken various training sessions organised by Governor Services including safeguarding, mental welfare in school and three of the six training webinars pertinent to the role of chair. Our new AEND governor, Caroline Hubbard, attended the annual Special Educational Needs Conference, which is run by Governor Services.

Governors are unpaid volunteers, and, collectively, are the biggest group of volunteers in England. I would like to thank all Foxhills governors for the time they give to their role.

### **Next term**

Our values of Care, Learn, Engage, Achieve, Reflect extend throughout both schools, and the governors will be collaborating with staff to explore how these values, and our yet to be disclosed new motto, are embedded in the Foxhills culture. We feel we have come a long way in the two terms since we federated and look forward to an exciting and productive summer term.

With best wishes,

Ann Arscott

Chair of Governors, for Foxhills Federation Board of Governors.

Email: [Governors@foxhillsfederation.co.uk](mailto:Governors@foxhillsfederation.co.uk)