



Chers parents, carers and friends of La Fontaine Academy,

For the second edition of our Governors' Newsletter, we would like to start by thanking all of you for being so supportive of the school, since it opened in September 2014. This has been critical in helping to develop the school and is contributing to its success. We have very active parents running the PTA, demonstrating passion and drive in running activities to raise funds for the children, and also in developing a sense of

community and social cohesion; hugely important to our mission of engaging the children with the community.

Many parents have provided their skills and savoir faire. We would like to particularly mention the help the governing body received from Ingrid and Mads in marketing the school. They developed a marketing campaign which was run until the application deadline in January. We are very pleased to report that their work has contributed to the success of the open days, where over 400 people attended, and it looks like there will be two full reception classes in September 2015. La Fontaine is building a very good reputation, as can be seen by our pupil numbers, which have steadily increased by 30% during the first two terms. When parents visit the school they can see how happy the children are, and the nurturing environment they are being taught in. This, of course, is only possible thanks to the way the school is run by our Headteacher, Dr Sebastien Chapleau, and his staff. Once again, thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Learning and Teaching

As a new school, our teachers have been working really hard to establish key practices across all classes. On entry, back in September, all the children were assessed for teachers to have a clear understanding of everyone's prior knowledge and skills. As new children have been joining us throughout the past couple of terms, a similar process has taken place for all of them.

Since September, progress across the school has been very strong and children are demonstrating great focus and resilience in terms of their work. Our core values are seen as a thread that runs across all that the children learn and do. They produce pieces of work that demonstrate their thirst for **EXCELLENCE** (through Mastery learning). They play and behave **RESPECTFULLY**, demonstrating that a peaceful world can and will be built through their leadership. They **COLLABORATE**, aiming to build lasting friendships. They act as **RESPONSIBLE** leaders (e.g. as they help us run our family dining, as they go swimming every week, etc.), and, most importantly, they do all this **CREATIVELY**, with big smiles on their faces (faces which often get photographed thanks to Kate and Tatyana and painted at PTA events thanks to Kate and Hshen!). Our teachers are absolute champions, and they can't be thanked enough for creating such amazing learning opportunities for our children. Not only are the children succeeding academically; they're also becoming rounded people who will be able to shape the world around them!

Permanent site update

Where to start?! When the Local Governing Body met in January, it was expected that a permanent site for La Fontaine would be confirmed by the Easter break. Whilst the proposed site at Havelock Recreation Ground was going to be controversial for some local residents, we certainly did not expect such strong reactions, but more importantly such a level of misinformation about La Fontaine. Whilst we still await a decision on where La Fontaine will be located from September 2016, please be assured that

all relevant parties in the Department for Education, and at Bromley Council, are actively seeking a satisfactory site for our school. We also want to stress that Westmoreland Road is currently allocated as our permanent site if no other alternative is identified. One of the reasons we would prefer an alternative site is that Westmoreland Road can only accommodate a two form of entry school (i.e. two classes per year group). Bromley Central is in great need of additional primary school places and we would like our school to help meet that need and provide the outstanding education local children deserve.



Do you know enough about your local governing body?

As your local governing body, our focus is on three primary strategic functions:

1. Setting the strategic direction of the school;
2. Acting as critical friends to the Headteacher, holding the Headteacher to account for the achievement of pupils and performance of staff; and
3. Being accountable for the finances of the school.

As a Local Governing Body, we are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and do not get involved in operational matters.

Our governing body is a diverse group, composed as follows:

- Nathan Hardman – free school original parent group, parent governor, responsible for the school's resources/finances, safeguarding matters including Health and Safety and Looked After Children.
- Veronica Mitchell – free school original parent group, parent governor, responsible for Teaching & Learning Data and Special Educational Needs.
- Chris Stevens – parent governor, Vice-Chair, responsible for Extra Curricular and Community links
- Eleonor Paxman – elected parent governor, parent relations
- Layla Mahlojian – elected staff governor
- Sebastien Chapleau – Headteacher
- Mark Ducker – Executive Principal, The STEP Academy Trust
- Isabelle Dennigan – Academy Director the STEP Academy Trust, Chair

If you need to get in touch, you can speak to one of the parent governors during the school run. Alternatively, you can find out how to contact us at www.lafontaineacademy.org/governance. Using this link, you can also view the minutes of our past meetings and find out what we discuss and do.

Our best wishes for the Easter holidays. It will be a good time for the children and staff to recharge before the summer term.

Isabelle Dennigan, March 2015

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Local Governing Body of La Fontaine Academy