

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2016

CEMENTING FOUNDATIONS AND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The 2015-2016 academic year has been a time of consolidation and progress for both La Fontaine and Heathfield Academies. We have seen student numbers grow and have welcomed new families to our respective communities. Both schools have dealt admirably with the practical considerations of having temporary sites and have set high targets for students and staff.



Heathfield Academy

Having been in a similar position to La Fontaine Academy in September 2014 (a brand new school with a new intake in a temporary site), Heathfield Academy has surpassed expectations and has consolidated itself within the STEP family.

The challenges presented by a temporary location have been met head on by the Headteachers and their team. Evidence of this can easily be seen every morning at drop off when 30 children are delivered by a coach with military precision.

Like La Fontaine Academy, Heathfield Academy benefits from fantastic parental support and families eagerly attend Academy events and work hard to ensure that they take all learning opportunities and experiences into their home.

All workshops and Learning Together sessions were well attended during the year and the children and parents enjoyed working collaboratively in the classroom. Parents have spoken positively regarding Heathfield Academy's commitment to the children. They have also commented about making sure that the challenges with a new temporary site do not impede the children's learning.

On recent governor visits to the school we have observed the confidence and abilities of the children. They speak positively about their experience at Heathfield Academy and enjoy the learning process.



In June, Heathfield Academy held its inaugural sports day where all children participated and enjoyed friendly competition. The parents' tug of war was a big highlight of the day with the ladies beating the men! Earlier in the year, Heathfield Academy children participated in collaborative events at La Fontaine Academy such as a Christmas Pantomime and activities to celebrate Science Week. We hope that there will be more collaboration between the two Academies as they both grow and are able to share their experiences.



Heathfield children have made excellent progress and the targets set by the academy in reading, writing and maths have been met. This is an excellent achievement in their first year and testament to the Headteachers and staff. We hope that the children enjoy their graduation ceremony as they have earned it!

The word has spread about the wonderful things that Heathfield Academy are doing and the drive for students for September is going well. The open days for September 2016 have been well attended.

The focus now for Heathfield Academy is to consolidate this position and raise the bar for 2016-2017. The governing body has no reason to doubt that this will be the case.



La Fontaine Academy

La Fontaine has built on a successful first year and aimed higher across all aspects of the school. We have welcomed many new members of teaching and support staff and they have subscribed to the objectives and community spirit that underpin La Fontaine.

The summer term has been a success throughout the school. For the second year running children went on the beach trip to Margate and some stayed over gaining in confidence and independence. Students have competed in the school sports day.

Students have learned about their environment and working towards being global citizens. With uncertainty surrounding our place in the world, La Fontaine students have shown their ability to embrace diversity and work together to achieve more. The students have participated in Refugee Week in June, learning in particular about the crisis affecting Syria. This follows on from the support and a collection earlier in the year for those affected by the Syrian crisis.

Green Light

Our summer term will be remembered for the excellent news we received in June from Bromley Council as they finally authorised a new permanent site for La Fontaine, at the adult education centre on Nightingale Lane. This will be La Fontaine's home from September 2017.



This is a momentous occasion and we must thank the work of all the STEP Academy Trust team and Dr Chapleau.

We also thank you, the parents and carers who have believed in the school and have undertaken the journey with La Fontaine and STEP Academy Trust. Without the parents there is no school. You have been willing to take the step into the unknown by sending your children to a school without a permanent site. We thank you for your patience through this challenging process.

Now that a site has been agreed the challenge will be to ensure that it encompasses everything that we all want from a school, including excellent teaching facilities, excellent sporting facilities, creative learning and a safe environment for our children to flourish.

Parental support has been seen practically through the numerous volunteers at La Fontaine's PTA events. In addition a number of parents have been working very hard to create the sports area and stage behind the main hall. We look forward to the first performance!



Au revoir

As we rotate through another successful year we say goodbye to some key personnel at La Fontaine and families who have been involved from the beginning of our journey. We would like to say special MERCI to all of them for their hard work and the legacy they leave behind.

We sincerely wish you all a very enjoyable summer, safe travels and we look forward to seeing you in September ready for the new challenges and adventures that lay ahead.

Chris Stevens, Governor

On behalf of the Strategic Governing Body of La Fontaine and Heathfield Academies