

# GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2018

## NEW GOVERNORS

We are delighted to welcome to the Strategic Governing Body Laura Macinnes, who is the Parent Governor from Heathfield, and Michael Speziale, who is the Staff Governor from La Fontaine. In addition, Laura Tully has been appointed as an Associate Parent Governor to support parental communication around La Fontaine's move to its permanent site.



## THE ROLE OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Governors' role is primarily strategic and we are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school. Working closely with the Central Management Team at STEP, we discuss with the Headteachers what we want the schools to achieve and set out a framework for getting there. This involves setting objectives, agreeing policies, targets and priorities, and then regularly reviewing these objectives and targets to check how the schools are doing. Our priority is always to give your children the

best possible education- a safe and happy environment in which the quality of teaching enables your child to achieve his or her potential.

Governors act as a "critical friend" to the Headteachers. Many of the Governors have particular areas of expertise (education, finance, law, etc.) and can offer support and constructive advice when necessary. We can also question, seek information and make suggestions in order to help the schools achieve the best results for your children. Some Governors have specific responsibility for things such as safeguarding, standards and finance.

Over the past few weeks, we have been agreeing improvement plans and setting targets for next year, in the context of the schools' budgets. In common with other schools, the limited funding available for schools from Government means that all expenditure has to be closely scrutinised and our spending plans must be set in the light of the priority given to different activities in the schools. We are therefore very grateful to the Parent and Teachers Associations at both Academies and to those parents who have contributed via schemes such as MyDonate, Easyfundraising and Corporate Matched Giving Programme.



On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, Ofsted visited Heathfield Academy for their first inspection since opening in September 2015. Following a rigorous two-day inspection, we are delighted that the school was judged outstanding in all areas. Inspectors praised the school for its "highly ambitious"

leaders' and pupils' "exceptionally positive attitudes to learning". We congratulate everyone in the school who has helped to achieve this excellent result.

As the children come to the end of their first year in the permanent site, we celebrate Heathfield winning Building Project of the Year 2018 in the recent Constructing Excellence Awards.



**La Fontaine**  
ACADEMY

We were delighted to see that La Fontaine has finally

been able to move to its permanent site in the Widmore Centre and all the classrooms were fully organised by the beginning of the Summer Term. The fact the move went so smoothly, with minimal impact on children and lessons, is a testament to the hard work of Sebastien and his colleagues. We would particularly like to thank those parents who helped with the move by painting, etc. in the run up to the opening day.

Governors are aware that there is room for improvement in some aspect of the new facilities and we will be seeking to address these in Phase 2 of the development, which we hope will be completed by September/October 2019. We are also aware that the level of traffic around the new site is a very important issue and we hope that the school's discussions with Bromley Council on this issue reach a satisfactory outcome.

This year has been another successful year for our children in terms of their attainment and progress. Headline figures for Reception, Phonics, and Key Stage 1 (data which the Department for Education officially publishes each year), we are hopeful that our data will, once again, be above local and national averages, something which is testament to the hard work of our teachers and children.

We would like to congratulate Madame Zakir and Madame Hogg for successfully completing their NQT year this year.

We would also like to congratulate Mesdames Crittenden and Edwards for successfully completing an intensive leadership course over the past nine months.

A big congratulations too to Monsieur Hewitt for having been selected to be a Mathematics Mastery leader on a programme run by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

Mark Anderson

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