



October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Governor News and Academy Status Update

I am writing to inform you of changes to the Governing Body of the school and to update you on decisions relating to academy status.

Changes to the Governing Body

Five governors stepped down from this important role this summer: Hilary Pillin, after three years as a Governor and Chair of Governors; Vicki Stott (former Chair and Vice Chair of Governors); Gareth Davies (Staff Governor); Helen Whitworth and Tracey Smith. On behalf of everyone connected to the school, I would like to thank them all for their loyal and excellent service, going far above and beyond and being great supports to me personally. The Governors were an integral part of ensuring the school achieved its 'Good' rating and in securing the right route to becoming an academy, rather than one forced upon it, always acting in the best interests of our community.

Hilary writes:

Letter from the Chair of Governors

It is with mixed feelings that after three years as a governor at Wood Green School I have decided to stand down as Chair of Governors and from the governing body, as my work and other commitments make it increasingly difficult to do the role justice. It has certainly been an eventful three years, full of challenges, changes and achievements involving an immense amount of focussed work from all of the staff, students and governors alike. Significant progress has been made that has taken the school out of 'Special Measures' to which it was assigned in October 2013, to receive a rating of 'Good' in all aspects from Ofsted during this time and our exams results this year have been one tangible reflection of that.

The school has consolidated plans, developed with governors, to continue this upward trajectory into the future, founded on a key set of values which will underpin all activities and behaviour. In addition, as the school begins the process for establishing its own Multi-Academy Trust with chosen partners, these plans will continue to be developed, supported and scrutinised by a wider governance structure that will be looking for assurances that all students are receiving the best possible education in an environment that enables each of them, and each member of staff also, to thrive.

So I do feel I am leaving the school in a good and promising place as I hand over to John Green who is now taking over the reins as Chair of Governors, with a team of dedicated governors working with him. It has been a privilege working with the visionary Rob Shadbolt and his Senior Leadership Team and all of the governors who have been involved over the past three years, and I feel genuinely positive and excited about the direction they are pursuing for the school. I will continue to watch and support the school from the sidelines over the coming years and wish everyone there all the very best in their endeavours.

Hilary Pillin

23rd September 2016

I am delighted to announce that John Green has taken over as Chair of Governors, with Sarah Showan as Vice Chair of Governors. I am sure that they, with our team of excellent governors, will lead our school into its next important chapter. Full details of Governors can be found on our website and news about recruiting new Governors will be announced in the next few weeks.

Academy Status

Following consultation last term and a due diligence process looking at the potential benefits and risks associated with becoming an academy, the Governing Body voted at their first meeting of the year to proceed with the plan to create a new Multi-Academy Trust. This will initially be with three other Oxfordshire schools. It is intended that The Acer Trust will come into being on 1st February 2017, with Wood Green School, Matthew Arnold School, Icknield Community College and Chalgrove Primary School as the member schools.

The reason for this transfer is to secure the future status of Wood Green School and to collaborate with like-minded schools in ways that will lead to school improvement:

- With the diminishing capacity of the Local Authority and given that 29 of the 35 previously maintained secondary schools in Oxfordshire have converted to academy status, the Governing Body made the decision that it was in the best interest of Wood Green School to be part of a Multi-Academy Trust.
- The other schools forming the Trust all have a track-record of sustained performance or improvement and supporting other schools to improve.
- Being part of this Trust will provide opportunities for both the external collaboration and challenge that are essential for school improvement.

The due diligence process showed that all schools have similar approaches to developing a rounded education for all their students, valuing learning both in and out of the classroom, and have much to offer each other through this close collaboration. Wood Green will of course continue to work closely with local schools too and the opportunity to join the Acer Trust will be open to more schools in the future.

An academy order has now been issued by the Department for Education. The school will continue to work towards this change and will keep parents updated.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher