

Governor Blog Autumn Term 2020

Governor Day was held remotely via zoom on Wednesday 18th November 2020, where governors were able to meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss the following; creating a safe environment, mental health, student re-engagement, identifying gaps, prioritising the curriculum and additional actions required by the school.

Governors learned about the wide variety of approaches being used to identify gaps in student's knowledge and the flexibility within assessments. Governors heard about a number of exciting developments within the school that are turning what is a very challenging situation into an opportunity. The school is now developing 3-year development projects:

- Building a 21st century sustainable school which has full independent control of it's development. This will involve resolving building and land issues around the leisure centre/youth centre and developing a detailed infrastructure development plan.
- Develop interconnected support structures for both SEND and all pupils to produce a tailored education for every child. This may involve a new autism base, integrating SEND/behaviour and pastoral services, integrate specialist teaching into SEND support, recognising social learning as a key educational aim as possible examples.
- Design a whole curriculum offer which speaks to the curiosity in every young mind. This may include further developing the Sixth form curriculum, looking at assessment across the school, develop wider curriculum opportunities such as the Discovery Society, and develop/encourage a research based approach to learning.
- Creating leadership opportunities for staff and pupils. This may include informal leadership opportunities for all staff, work with student voice and develop a leadership curriculum utilising for example, sport and outdoor education and and build community leadership.

Governor Blog – Spring Term 2021

Governor meetings have proceeded remotely, and governors have supported the development of Covid testing procedures. The need for the Youth Centre to be used as a Covid testing centre has enabled the school to gain access from the local authority after nearly a decade of trying. The necessary works are proceeding to make the building suitable for use.

Governor Day was held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 10th February 2021, where governors were able to view excerpts of nine lessons and could see the variety and approaches used by different teachers and the interaction between student and teachers which was impressive. In addition to this governors then met with students from a range of years and were able to talk to them about their experiences during this lockdown.

Students reported that this lockdown was better than the previous one because they now have live lessons which are more interactive. Students feel they are being well supported by their teachers but of course would much prefer being in school.

Governor Blog – Summer Term 2021

Governors have continued to meet remotely during the academic year and had their first exciting governor day in person in the new youth centre which has been closed since 2012 and the school have now acquired the lease. The youth centre has been redecorated, refurbished and is ready for use. Governors completed a behaviour walk with the head of years 9 & 10. Governors toured the school and were impressed with the calmness, appearance and tidiness of the school grounds and buildings. Governors were particularly impressed by the refurbishment of the sixth form centre and lecture theatre. During the tour the governors observed complete compliance of covid regulations. Governors met with students from year 7-10 and year 12 in the orchard to obtain their views in relation to student wellbeing, which were passed back to the senior leadership team. Governors also listened to members of staff from the wellbeing team. The staff well being group have been invited to report back at a future governor meeting.

Included in the focus of governor day was peer on peer abuse where governors were able to gain the students perspective, students were overwhelmingly supportive of the school and know where to go if they need support,