



## Governors continue to meet

**Governors have continued to meet** remotely since the lockdown, using Zoom and Teams. Two full governing body meetings were held during the summer term. As the new academic year starts the intention is for all governing body and sub-committee meetings to continue as usual, albeit remotely.

**Full Governing Body meetings** are an opportunity for governors to receive detailed updates from Mr Byers. **At the September meeting** he summarised all the work which had taken place during the summer term. The submission of **Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs)** had required a lot of staff training and collaboration. Governors were pleased to hear that the Local Authority had reported the FSD grades were some of the most realistic and accurate of all schools in the region at both GCSE and A level.

Detailed work also took place on the range of **measures needed to mitigate against Covid-19**. The organisation of year group bubbles, controlled transition between lessons, changes to the timing of the school day and the wearing of masks in lessons have all contributed to the small numbers of positive cases since the school returned in September.

**Sub-committee meetings** give an opportunity for more detailed discussion. At the October **Quality of Education** sub-committee governors discussed a **Blended learning/remote teaching implementation plan**. This is important as students will, inevitably, have their learning disrupted throughout the months ahead. This plan has a three phase approach:-

Phase 1 – to develop Teams as a communication platform for all staff.

Phase 2 – move towards parity in the quality of teaching & learning between home and school.

Phase 3 – Ensure that all the work put into this is maintained post Covid. This approach has the potential to change learning dramatically but it must be sustainable, involving pupils and their parents.

**Govt. lap-top project** - In response to governors' questions Mr Byers explained that the DfE initiative on laptops had not worked; only 1 laptop had been received. Smartphones would enable access to remote learning for all pupils via a MS Teams app.

**Government funding for additional tutoring.** FSD has been allocated £83,000 for extra support in 2020-21. The school is now working out how to best use this money, aiming to narrow the attainment gaps, where they exist, for ALL students.

# Governor Up-date

## October 2020

### Premises Developments

Wendy Pattison, the Academy Business Director, and her team gave a group of governors a tour round the school on October 21<sup>st</sup> to see the premises work done during the summer.

- Three new large classrooms and a small staffroom in the space that was the old library.
- The library has been re-located upstairs in the area which was previously the staffroom.
- Extensions to the dining areas to accommodate the larger pupil numbers.

The Trust Board released around £300k of funding from reserves to support this work.



### Appointment of additional Assistant Headteachers

Year	Student Roll	Shift	% shift
2017-18	1015		
2018-19	1122	(+107)	11%
2019-20	1248	(+126)	11%
2020-21	1312	(+64)	5%
2021-22	1341	(+29)	2%

Governors were involved in the appointment of:-

**Mrs Mersh Roberts** who started in September with responsibility for KS5 Achievement and the Sixth Form.

**Miss O' Neill** who starts in January 2021 with responsibility for Systems and Data,

These posts add important capacity to the senior team.

### Thanks to Debs Halliwell

**Debs term of office, as a parent governor, finished on October 31<sup>st</sup>. She has been an important voice on the governing board, often raising concerns from parents who do not live in the immediate area. Thanks to her for her loyalty and support for the school.**