

Governors' Newsletter

April 2016

Message from the Chair

I hope everyone had a happy Easter, and have returned ready for the final term of the year. We have seen a wonderful mix of continuity and revolution in Millfields so far this year. As a Governing Board, we have actively sought to see our children here in Millfields understand the responsibility and rights that democracy brings. Plus the complexity of Assessment without Levels, plus ensure a highly creative and engaging curriculum.

Finlay McNally, as Prime Minister, has worked to engage and represent his peers, and been able to convince the school to invest in new changing facilities in the school – his term of office coming close to conclusion means we are looking now to the future and on who he will pass the Prime Ministerial baton on to, I look forward to Democracy week in June.

This revolution in actively seeking and acting on pupil voice is an innovation of Millfields that we have great pride in, and as governors have asked two members of the Governing Board to ensure the student voice is brought directly to them, and then onwards to the full Governing Board meetings. In today's world giving voice to people especially those who are more vulnerable is important, and we hope the rights of having the student voice heard comes with the responsibility of ensuring those who are more vulnerable can be championed.

You may have heard much of the Prevent agenda, to stop radicalisation, in Millfields of course we are vigilant but that is coupled by empowering our children to know their own moral code and stand up for those who might be manipulated. Our early warning systems allow us to support all members of our great community in the most appropriate ways.

I reported in my December newsletter that Magnus has now completed his term of office with us, and we have utilised the governor development programme to appoint a new co-opted governor in Magnus' place. It is proposed that Ben McMullen, who is Deputy at Fox Primary School, and a national champion for Mathematics, will join the group formally from 16 April 2016, supporting the requirement to engage with other educational establishments, and in supporting one of our priority areas (Maths). Our governance and leadership has been externally audited and we have been described as a school with strong governance, with indications of excellence, this is nice to hear, but we recognise that the challenges in education require more. Therefore I have arranged an away day to help us in the next step of our journey.

After a frugal year to rebalance our books, I'm pleased to hear that we are in a much better position this year. I thank Jane, Steffi and Hamza for their dedication and attention to detail on this. 2016-17 budget is also going to need to be carefully managed, money is likely to get even tighter, and we know we have some important investment we need to make to ensure our children get the best from the educational systems that we can offer.

I truly hope your child enjoys their time with us and has a great summer term. We hope that everything we do has enabled everyone connected with the school to love to learn.

Damian (On behalf of the Board of Governors)