

December 2015

Message from the Chair

As we welcome in the festive the period may I extend out my warmest greetings on behalf of all the governors here in Millfields. I wish you a wonderful 2016 and I hope a successful year ahead for all the pupils, staff and wider community.

2015 has been an interesting journey, one where we have continued to strive to deliver excellent teaching for our pupils:

Challenging everyone to be their best. We have continued our schools mission to create a community of people who love to learn, not just in the core subjects but in the wider curriculum. Our pupils have maintained scores around the national average, in a school that has embraced diversity and includes children who would normally be too challenged in mainstream education yet our school is robust and flexible enough to deliver for them too. Your children have won prizes in the arts sports and music bringing significant revenue to invest in the creative curriculum. We have had a fabulous democracy focus from the election in the role of Prime Minister of Millfields, Cem in May 2015. On his departure to Secondary School in September, we held a bi-election that saw a victory for Finlay. The level of electricity across the school in these two votes has been brilliant.

That diversity brings challenges to our school. This means we have had to be diligent challenging and reviewing the outputs of our children; we have developed a specific core of governors to forensically interrogate the data and results we achieved. This takes the form of a MAG (Millfields Attainment Group) meeting which is ably chaired by the outgoing Vice Chair of Governors, Magnus McGrandle, who is using the remainder of his term to train and hand over the reins to the newly elected chair. I would extend my thanks and appreciation of everything he has brought to the governing body, his time, his dedication and his energy, as his term of office draws to a conclusion, simply thanks, I wish you well as you move it to further responsibilities at work. The group is refining its mechanisms and throughout 2016 we will formally minute our discussions for public scrutiny.

The new constitution for the governors is now fully active after our soft launch throughout 2014-15. You'll have noticed I asked for volunteers from the parent and wider community population to join us. From that interest we have asked one parent with specific national mathematics responsibilities to join as an associate governor to complement our skills, we also have a succession pipeline of other parents / community links who replicate some of our current skills but it's important that we recognise their time and agreement to wait in the wings.

2016 begins with us commissioning an external review of our governance. We look to learn and enhance our support and challenge of the school. We have secured this pro bono and this will mean we will not divert funds from the children's education.

We have had a year of tight financial management which continues until March and our deficit is being carefully managed, consequently we will have recouped the difficulties that the councils' contractors brought to our doorstep. I thank Jane, Steffi and Hamza for their dedication and attention to detail on this.

I truly hope your child enjoys their time with us and receives an excellent start in their educational journey. We hope that everything we do has enabled everyone connected with the school to love to learn.

On that I end. A Merry Christmas to everyone and I hope the year ahead is most successful for everyone in Millfields.

Damian

On behalf of the Board of Governors