



Governor News, Summer Term 2018

It has been another rewarding and challenging year for the governors at East Leake Academy. The year started with a good set of results in national examinations with the significant improvement in the new Progress 8 measure probably being the highlight. Governors have worked closely with the Principal and Senior Leaders throughout the year on the Academy Improvement Plan which aims to build on the improvements seen in the past few years. We look forward to some strong results in August.

We were awarded Governor Mark in January this year. To achieve this national award governors had to provide an evidence trail that demonstrated that they attained or exceeded the set of defined benchmark standards of good governance. In addition, three case studies were provided to show how governance has impacted on school improvement. It is pleasing to have external recognition for the work of the governors.

We continue to see a growth in demand for places at the Academy. We are expecting around 200 students in Year 7 in September and this, together with an expected increase in numbers in the Sixth Form, will see the student population exceed 1000 for the first time for many years. With the large amount of new housing developments in the catchment it is anticipated that the capacity of 1180 will be reached in the next two to three years. However, finances remain challenging, as it does in all schools. Lagged funding means the funding for these extra students is not received until one year after they arrive, so in periods of growth the Academy is always teaching more students than it funded for in that year. The changes to the National Funding Formula introduced for 2018-19 will mean a reduction in the funding per student at ELA. Governors work closely with Senior Leaders to ensure that limited resources are effectively deployed to deliver the curriculum and maintain improvement.

This month we said goodbye to Gill Aldridge who has stood down from the governors after over 30 years of service. Gill has filled most of the governance roles during a period in which she has worked with four principals; Mr Armstrong, Mr Bailey, Mr Legg and Mrs Hardy. Gill has been responsible for safeguarding in recent years and was commended for her work in the most recent Ofsted Report. Governors thanked Gill for all her work over the years and wished her well for the future. The vacancy on the board will be filled in the Autumn Term and we have volunteers from the community who have applied for the governor role.

We wish all our students, their families and all ELA staff an enjoyable summer.

John Dickens
Chair of Governors
July 2018

