



Governor News, Summer Term 2019/20

It is strange to be writing this newsletter update at a time that the Academy is still closed to most of our students and my last face-to-face meeting in the school was over three months ago.

It was all change at the start of the school year following the departure of Mrs Hardy last summer to take up a new appointment. Mr Francis was appointed as acting Principal and, as part of a Trust wide restructuring, Mr Vernon was appointed as a Senior Principal with responsibilities for both ELA and Tuxford Academy. One of our first challenges was the visit of Ofsted in October when we were one of the first schools to be judged under a new assessment framework. The report confirmed the school's GOOD rating achieved in the previous visit in 2016. The staff at the school are to be congratulated on this outcome, especially as many in the Leadership Team at that time were new to their roles. By the start of the spring term Mr Francis was confirmed as Principal and subsequently the structure of the Senior Leadership Team was agreed and appointments made. A number of new initiatives were put in place and Academy Committee members (governors) were pleased to see that the drive to improve general levels of student behaviour was showing positive results.

During the closure due to the pandemic Academy Committee meetings have been limited to video links, but we have been updated regularly on the remote learning provision and on-going planning. Academy Committee members have been impressed by how well the staff have rapidly adapted to providing remote learning materials during the closure. As someone who taught for many years in a University, I know that it is not easy to suddenly switch to a distance-learning mode of delivery. We are currently having weekly meetings with the Principal by video link to approve updates to the Risk Assessment made to cover the safe return of Year 10 and Year 12 students.

I am stepping down from my role as Chair of the Academy Committee on 3rd July 2020 after completion of three two-year terms of office. I joined the Academy Committee in early 2012 during the period that Harry Carlton school was starting the process to convert to Academy status. I have worked with three Principals during this time and all have shown a strong commitment to the school and its students. Good governance is a team effort and I am proud to have worked with many individuals, both past and present, who give their time freely to help the school to continue to improve the education offered to our students. Marc Baker, the current Vice Chair, is taking over as Chair of the Academy Committee and Richard Osborne is the new Vice Chair. I wish them well as they continue to support and challenge the school to provide the best possible education for our students.

John Dickens
Chair of the Academy Committee
July 2020