



## Governor News, Spring Term 2020/21

As we go into the Easter holiday break it seems like a good time to reflect on the last 12 months and its impact on the Academy.

As parents, we have concerns about what impact the Covid-19 restrictions have had on our child's education and are apprehensive for the next stage of their life journey. While this is very worrying, particularly given the uncertainty for our economy going forwards, perhaps of greater concern is the impact this is all having on our children's mental health.

Over recent months, and particularly since last August, the governors have been really impressed with how teachers at East Leake Academy have understood the mental health challenges and responded in a pragmatic and positive way. This is not just in the way they have embraced Microsoft Teams to deliver lessons, but also the thinking that goes on behind the scenes, in ways that are often not visible to parents; to design and deliver a curriculum which engages students in remote learning, but does not put them under intensive pressure which might have adverse impact on their on-going development.

As governors our role is not to focus on the detail of day-to-day decisions made by teachers and the Senior Leadership Team, but to take an overview that looks at what objectives the team is focused on; how they intend to deliver and the outcomes they expect to achieve and looking at the longer term implications of decisions they are taking. As Chair of Governors, and a parent myself, I am reassured at how much professional care and judgement is taken by teachers to shape a learning environment that will deliver the learning our children need and also help them develop as individuals.

I'm sure you will all be with me as I take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff that look after our children while they are at school; they are very precious to us, something that by your day to day actions and empathy that you clearly acknowledge and understand.

Having a healthy number of governors each with their own strengths and areas of focus is essential to ensure we continue to hold the Academy to account, and I would like to welcome a further recruit, Gareth Roberts, who has extensive experience in both the financial sector and as a serving magistrate and is a welcome addition to the Academy Committee.

I hope you all enjoy the break during Easter and the weather holds up so we can all spend some time outside.

Best wishes to you all.

*Marc Baker*  
*Chair of Governors*