

January 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Chair of the Shrubbery School Governing Body Report January 2019

It is with great pleasure I set out a short update for you as to the recent progress at the School.

Continuing progress with Ofsted

As you will have no doubt read already, there was significant progress throughout the last school year. The last monitoring inspection conducted in May 2018 set out significantly improved findings that demonstrated the continuing commitment of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), led by Mrs Hilary Atkins and Mrs Carol Duckworth. I am pleased to report to you that as a Governing Body, we have continued to see focus and improvements across all areas that these external inspections would usually consider. The outcome of the last additional inspection showed all the standards were now clearly met.

Since that last monitoring inspection, and given that report's positive findings, the SLT (with the support of the Governing Body) have elected to become a member of the Independent Schools Association (ISA). We collectively consider that the requirements of membership of this body, together with the support systems it has in place for the SLT, are better suited to the requirements of the School. Given this membership, any future inspections will now be undertaken by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), which in turn will share its findings with Ofsted.

We do not as yet know when the next full inspection will be, but we are confident that when it happens, the School will be ready to show itself in the best manner it possibly can do, and the improvements that the SLT and all the teaching staff have worked hard to implement will be appropriately recognised. Any reporting will, of course, be shared with you as it is released by ISI / Ofsted.

For your reference, further details about the ISA and the ISI can be found on the following websites:

www.isaschools.org.uk

www.isi.net

Achievements at the School

At our most recent meeting of the Governing Body earlier this month, Mrs Atkins presented her report to us on the first term of the FY18/19 school year. We were encouraged to note continuing improvement in pupil outcomes throughout the first school term of the year, as well as increasing numbers of pupils at the School as a whole. We have a full complement of teachers, all of whom are absolutely committed to the development and well being of the children at the School.

But further to the academic achievements, we were all struck with the volume and quality of the extra-curricular activities undertaken at the School. There is a real community feeling, with both teaching staff, parents and members of the locale giving huge amounts of their own time to provide developmental and fun experiences for all of the children across the School.

Some highlights include:

- various events supported by parents, including the Summer Fete, the Spooky Disco, the dance for Children in Need, and the Winter Fair;
- the School Choir singing for local sheltered housing residents;
- local and national maths and chess challenges;
- various local nominations awards for our sporting activities, including the Gold Games Award and the Sutton Observer Sports Awards; and

- various organised tours to local attractions, including museums and the theatre.

I would encourage everyone to read the regular Shrubbery School newsletter and Parents Association newsletter on the School website, which sets out in far more detail the various activities and achievements that the pupils of the School have enjoyed. The School truly supports all aspects of our children's development and well-being, and I thank everyone who has given up their own time to support these activities.

Changes to the Governing Body

As noted in my prior report, I had been acting as interim Chair of the Governing Body. Since then, the Governing Body have agreed that I should continue in that role for the foreseeable future, and I thank them for the continuing support.

In addition, many of you will know that Mrs Rowley-Field, our Teacher Governor, has now commenced maternity leave following the birth of her baby girl earlier this month. We congratulate her and the new family, and wish them all the best. Staff have finalized the appointment of a new Teacher Governor and this is Mrs Amanda Lees, a new addition to the teaching staff. Mrs Lees has considerable experience and will bring a great deal to all areas of the school.

Mr Les Gilbert has also recently stated that due to other commitments, he is stepping down from the Governing Body, and I thank him for his contributions and insights to the Governing Body over the last year or so. Again, we will announce his replacement on the website in due course.

The Governing Body are due to meet again early in the Summer term to review the progress achieved during the current Spring term, and we will then meet again at the end of the Summer term to review School progress across the full academic year.

As ever, thank you for your continuing support of the School. It is truly a unique, supportive environment for our children to develop and thrive.

I look forward to writing to you again in the Spring to update you further.

John Coates
Chair, Shrubbery School Governing Body