



Governor's Newsletter



Crigglestone St James CE Primary Academy Headteacher: Mr G T Denton

Date: 13/12/18

Issue: 04

St James Way, Crigglestone, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 3HY

Tel & Fax: 01924 251048

www.stjamesacademy.co.uk

Hello everyone, here is our latest update on the work of the academy governors.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE & THE 2018 BUDGET AUDIT

The Governors have, like the rest of school had a busy term, with our annual independent inspection of governance and our annual budget audit. These have both gone extremely well for school and we collectively continue to perform well. The governance review is self-initiated on an annual basis and has, this year, been led by Craig Batley – an independent leadership consultant with expertise in governance and recent experience of successful headship. Harris Accountants continue to act as our independent auditors who fulfil our financial accountability requirements. It is a requirement of any academy trust that this work is undertaken and we had these presented to use at the recent Annual General Meeting in November. The accounts have again been commended in terms of their management and our efforts around value for money have been recognised and are crucial as our budget continue to be squeezed. We are forecasting a deficit budget for 18/19 and are being forced to use reserves to maintain the current provision. Reserves that will not last forever. Detail of the accounts have been published on our website for reference should you wish but suffice to say we will continue to be prudent in our spending decisions within school because we are resolute in wanting to maintain the numbers and quality of our team.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

As mentioned in previous newsletters we continue to review our approach to managing 'holiday in term time absence' in school. The governing body have been working with education welfare and the learning mentor to outline a possible approach and future policy relating to parental fines for holidays in term time (as we are one of the few schools that does not do this). In conclusion, the current data demonstrates we have a 97.6% attendance rate which is excellent and well above the national average. We are not complacent about this though and continue to strive for better, however Governors have determined that against this high level of performance **we will not impose fines for unauthorised holidays taken in term time at the moment but will continue to monitor this area of pupil absence. this currently happens half-termly. and will review this decision if, and when, required based upon attendance trends and figures. It should be noted that schools do not benefit financially at all from any fining system and all monies go directly to the local authority - even as an academy, this work is purely about lost learning not finance.**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUB COSTS

One thing that has drawn some cause for concern this term, from a small minority, has been the charging extra-curricular school clubs from January 2019 and whilst the budget position is clearly a principle factor in this I wanted to be clear that this decision hasn't been taken lightly and all funds generated through the provision of school clubs will be used for equipment and resources within this time. It is not the case that these funds are to be used to pay for staff costs in fact all staff give their time voluntarily for after school clubs recognising their commitment to providing the children a greater breadth of experience in support for our Change For Life curriculum initiative. Children will continue to be afforded a great variety of after school provision and it is our intention that this will provide something for every child in school, but the reality is that having developed this provision there are associated costs and the school has to be able to balance the books in a challenging financial environment – as outlined in my previous statements.

Members of the governing body will be at Parent Forum 2 on Monday 21st January at 6.15pm and will be part of the regular Q&A session alongside a senior leadership and wider staff panel.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your continued support, and in particular note the work of the Parent Partnership during this term and their fabulous fundraising, and wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and new year.

Gary Hooks (Chair of Governing Body)

GOVERNOR CALENDAR SPRING 2019

STANDARDS ACCOUNTABILITY MTGS
18TH January & 1st March

PARENT PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2
21st January

**ACADEMY ALL SAINTS EXTERNAL
REVIEW OF TEACHING, LEARNING &
BEHAVIOUR**
28th March

RESOURCE COMMITTEE MTGS
25th January & 8th March

PAY & APPRAISAL COMMITTEE 2
Tuesday 28th February

FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS
7th February & 21st March

GOVERNOR NEWLETTER 5
29th March

**DURING THE TERM, THE GOVERNORS
WILL UNDERTAKE CHALLENGE VISITS
RELATING TO HEALTH & SAFETY, WILL
BE PART OF THE EXTERNAL TEACHING
& LEARNING REVIEW, WILL ATTEND
GOVERNOR WORSHIP AT ST JAMES THE
GREAT CHURCH AND WILL RECEIVE
TRAINING REGARDING THE LATEST
ACADEMY AND DfE DATA ANALYSIS
SYSTEMS.**

GOVERNING BODY 2018/2019

MR G. HOOKS – CHAIR OF GOVERNORS/BEHAVIOUR
LEAD

MRS C. WATKINS – VICE CHAIR OF
GOVERNORS/RESOURCES CHAIR/SAFEGUARDING
LEAD/SCHOOL LUNCHESES

REVEREND K. GREAVES – HEALTH & SAFETY
GOVERNOR/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & WORSHIP

MR B. DENSON – GDPR/RESOURCES

MRS N. PRIESTLEY – SEN
GOVERNOR/STANDARDS/PAY & APPRAISAL

MRS C. SADLER – ENGLISH AND

MATHS/STANDARDS//ALL SAINTS LINK

GOVERNOR/PAY & APPRAISAL CHAIR/SCHOOL
LUNCHESES

MRS S. SHAW – ADMISSIONS/TEST
ADMINISTRATION

MR K. WAINWRIGHT – HT APPRAISAL
CHAIR/RESOURCES

MRS V. WIGHTMAN – STANDARDS
CHAIR/RESOURCES/GDPR/SCHOOL LUNCHESES

STAFF GOVERNORS

MR G. DENTON

MRS A. HAMBLETON

MISS B. HIRST

**The governing body works towards
the 6 areas of governance at all
times and in all actions.**

These areas are:

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

ACCOUNTABILITY

PEOPLE

STRUCTURES

COMPLIANCE

EVALUATION

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT ROLES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES SEE THE GOVERNANCE
SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE.**

**OUR GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2018/2019 IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.**