

Governor Update

Autumn 2020

TERMLY UPDATE

We are very proud to have school communities that are both resilient and focused on ensuring our pupils flourish and achieve well. The last few months have proved a challenge to us all yet children and staff have returned to full time learning with the energy and enthusiasm to ensure our school community re-establishes a strong sense of belonging. Our termly Governing Body and Committee meetings since March have taken place remotely to discuss teaching and learning and to monitor the financial situation of the schools. Between these times, regular updates from

leaders has ensured we are kept updated on the government guidance. We have received and approved the policies, processes and detailed risk assessments that have allowed the schools to open fully from September, in addition to the opening of the schools to keyworker and vulnerable children during the height of the pandemic. Governors have also attended the regular forums held by Hackney Education to ensure we are well informed about the Hackney context, focus and initiatives. As a Governing Body we would like to extend thanks to all families for the commitment to ensuring pupils are accessing their curriculum entitlement. Despite the unusual circumstances, attendance at all three of our schools is higher than 96%, above the current Hackney and national average. The schools have made plans through a remote learning policy to ensure, in the event of self isolation, that pupils can continue to access their right to education. A continued focus on the well being and emotional health of pupils and the staff continues to be a priority with all three schools working with Unlocking Potential and WAHMs (Wellbeing and Mental Health Team) both who provide a breadth of services designed to support the whole school community in addition to identified individual needs.

Despite the restrictions presented the schools have continued to strive for success. All three schools have achieved the Anti Bullying Silver Quality Mark and have been re-accredited the Inclusion Quality Mark of

which two schools hold Flagship status. In addition to this, re-accreditation has taken place for the Green Flag award, Science Quality Mark and the Arts Mark Award. As Governors we are committed to ensuring that a rich curriculum remains an integral feature of our schools and children have accessed a broad and balanced curriculum offer since return in September including Spanish lessons, music lessons and a range of workshops to enhance learning engagement. The curriculum has been adapted to include daily key skills learning in order to identify gaps in knowledge and ensure pupils catch up quickly.



GOVERNOR VISIT MORNING TO SOUTHWOLD SCHOOL

The Governor visit morning this term was to Southwold School with a focus on cultural diversity. It is vital that both classroom and school culture reflect, understand and celebrate diversity. Viridis Schools regularly review the curriculum offer to ensure this is representative and relatable for our children and communities. Governors spent the morning visiting classrooms, meeting staff and speaking to children. The discussions included learning about how reading texts are selected, the planned curriculum content and the enrichment opportunities. Governors also learned about what the schools will be focussing on next including further development of a range of texts available for teachers to use during whole class teaching and for children to take home, a closer look at the curriculum with a focus on ensuring diversity is captured in the key figures studied and a detailed look at the wider curriculum to ensure that curriculum content is taught from a range of perspectives to ensure misconceptions are not taught about the past.



FEDERATION PRIORITIES 2020 - 2021

At the recent Governing Body sub committee meetings, the governors reviewed the annual School Development Plan alongside Headteachers to look at the areas of focus for the schools this year. These include:

- To implement a recovery curriculum that enables children to catch up quickly and reach end of year expectations.
- To further develop knowledge and understanding of unconscious bias and cultural diversity to ensure a confident and balanced curriculum offer to children.
- To build on the increased use of technology as a result of school closures and forward plan for a blending learning model to ensure consistency in accessible learning opportunities.
- Implement a well being policy and initiatives to support the mental health and well-being of children and staff.



WELCOME TO....



Victoria has been an associate governor on the Hoxton Garden sub committee for two years. She joined the full Governing Body as a co-opted Governor in September 2020. Victoria has a background in government and was a Special Adviser to Justine Greening, the former Secretary of State for Education. She currently works as a consultant advising clients on government policy. She lives in Hackney and in her spare time she volunteers at Mossbourne Community Academy teaching coding and Python.

