

Governors Report 2015/16

The year 2015/16 saw a number of highlights for Park Community and its students. The first year of the new school buildings has demonstrated the benefit of our wonderful facilities and much credit is due to both HCC and our own staff who worked for many years on the design and fabric of the facilities. Highlights that have impressed Governors include the "Race at Our Place" for Cancer Research, Book Week Guinness Book of Records Quiz and various projects in the community. It is rewarding to see how our sports ambassadors and other school ambassadors represent the school in activities off-site and impress visitors and fellow students at school.

Governors continue to be impressed not only by students' behaviour and attendance at school but by the feedback from outside activities and visits. Our students performed well in a number of competitive areas too, from Rock Challenge to Greenpower car racing and visits to universities and Glyndebourne.

Governors continue to monitor the curriculum and teaching and learning across the school.

Faculty Governors meet teaching staff and department leaders with visits to classrooms and meetings. In addition, Governors accompany staff members on "learning walks" across a range of lessons.

Our results in August this year are a pleasing improvement on 2015 with the progress of students now at about the national average. Governors have been impressed by significant improvement in History, Spanish and both Physics and Chemistry achievements. Our English Baccalaureate results have also increased. These results are a good basis for departments to build on in the coming years. This year we will support school leaders as they seek to reduce the variation in progress and attainment between subjects. Disadvantaged students continue to do well and out-performed other students in terms of progress in 2016.

Governors are pleased that the school continues to offer a very extensive curriculum including over 20 GCSE courses and the many other experiences that will enable students to develop and discover their ambitions for the future. For example, the work experience on offer, together with horticulture and building skills courses, give students a real example of what work will be like whilst developing a maturing outlook to education. Governors continue to challenge and encourage school leaders as they seek to find ways to teach mathematics such that achievement in the subject matches English outcomes. This requires the search for solutions to national staffing shortages as they affect Park and also the development of our own mathematics curriculum. Through the development of our own curriculum we will better support the learning of the more able as they aim for the highest GCSE grades and more effectively fill in the gaps in knowledge and understanding that many students arrive with from primary school.

The general administration of the school and monitoring of finance, personnel and safeguarding are the remit of the Administration Committee, with the Performance Committee focusing on school improvement, attainment and teaching and learning. Governors continue to be involved in school with business matters, staff recruitment interviews, behaviour interviews and meetings and regular checks on finance matters. The Chair meets regularly with the Headteacher to discuss ongoing developments.

Fred Deeks
Chair of Governors