

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a restful Christmas break and are looking forward to the new year. We are planning another exciting term ahead and look forward to working with the whole school community to build on the improvements we made last year and to continue to provide opportunities for all our pupils to thrive and meet their potential.

Thank you!

We thank you all for your support and commitment to Woodlands Academy. We were delighted to see so many parents attending the events last term especially the International Evening and the Christmas Production. We also received very good feedback from parents who attended the workshops and the parents' evenings.

Governing Body Reports

We had a busy first term addressing the priorities which we had set in our School Development Plan. These are :

- Developing the curriculum
- Continuing to develop the quality of our teaching and learning so that the outcomes for our pupils continue to improve
- Maintaining the improvement in attendance and building on the lessons we learned so that we can move to being in line with the national attendance figures
- Enhancing the profile of our school within the local community

Governors visited the school to monitor the impact of the pupil premium funding, the Special Educational Needs Provision and the learning environment. We also undertook Safeguarding and Health and Safety visits.

Resources Committee

This term we continued to monitor the expenditure against the budget and found that we needed to take immediate action to prevent an overspend. As a result of these changes we expect to come in on budget for the end of the year.

We reviewed a number of the school policies including the Parental Complaints Policy, various Finance Policies and the Health and Safety Policy. You will find all of our policies on the school website.

We reviewed the reports from our external auditors and agreed any actions that had been recommended.

Curriculum Committee

We started the term by analysing the end of year data on pupil outcomes for every year group. We were delighted with the upward trend for attainment and progress in every key stage. We compared the outcomes for our pupils to the national results and the Ealing results. 76% of our EYFS pupils reached the good level of development compared to 72% nationally and 72% in Ealing. At the end of Year 2, 67% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined compared to 65% nationally and 65% in Ealing. At the end of year 6, 76% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined compared to 64% nationally and 68% in Ealing. The average progress our pupils made between end of year 2 and end of year 6 was outstanding.

We also had a presentation from Mrs Magan on the development of the new enquiry-based curriculum and how the foundation subjects :history, geography and science would be taught and how the topics would be supported by homework projects. This will enable the children to use their English and Maths skills across the whole curriculum. We have seen the impact of the introduction of the Ealing scheme for teaching Personal, Social and Health Education has had on our pupils' well-being and confidence.

We reviewed a number of policies including the Behaviour Policy, the Special Educational Needs Policy and the Early Years Foundation Stage Policy, as well as the Teaching and Learning Policy.

Changes to membership of the Governing Board

We are delighted that Naheema Walji joined the Governing Board in December. Naheema has a background in law, compliance and education and lives in Ealing and used to attend Notting Hill and Ealing High School. Naheema's skills matched the gaps we had amongst the governing board membership. We are sorry to say goodbye to Ms Elmi who decided to step down from being an associate member of the Governing Board.

Priorities for the Spring Term

We are continuing to focus on the 4 school development plan priorities and have visits planned to look at Assessment, Pupil Premium expenditure, Science and Safeguarding. We are meeting with our school improvement partner to update her on our action plan and our new governors will be attending the local authority training "Getting to Grips with Governance"

Thank you!

Shirley Kenworthy-Wright

Chair of Governors