

Federation News from the Governing Body

CHRISTMAS UPDATE 2022

Dear all,

This term always goes by in a flash and this year has been no different, no sooner has everyone settled back into school routines after the Summer and then half term is upon us, and then the build-up to Christmas starts and here we are! During this term governors have been busy:

- carrying out the performance management of our headteachers,
- meeting with our School Improvement Partner to discuss improvement priorities for the federation and individual schools,
- carrying out monitoring visits to the schools around English, Pupil Premium, SEND, wellbeing, and Health & Safety,
- attending training and updates from Achieving for Children,
- attending federation strategy, committee and full board meetings.

This past term we have welcomed new governors to our board, Guy Elliott, Gemma Jones and Alka Soni. At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Jerry Appleyard who has decided to leave after 5 years as a governor and chair of our Finance & Premises Committee. We are grateful for everything he has done for our board and our schools during those 5 years, and we look forward to working with Guy Elliot as the new chair of this committee. We also say goodbye to Julia Edwards who has done some amazing work with both schools around diversity, equity and inclusion and I know both schools are very grateful to her for the support and guidance she has provided.

We will therefore have a vacancy for a co-opted governor and 2 vacancies for parent governors so please do consider if this is something that you'd be interested in. I would be very happy to chat to anyone thinking about coming forward and talk you through what being a governor is like and what is expected of us. Speaking from my own experience, it has always been something that I have hugely enjoyed and it is a real privilege working with our committed and dedicated school staff. We will be in touch in the new year to advertise these vacancies so please do keep an eye out for that. In the meantime, if you're interested and would like to ask any questions, feel free to get in touch with me via email at d.long@carlisleandhamptonhillfed.richmond.sch.uk

As you will know we sent out a survey a few weeks ago about where parents feel that the federation is working well, and where you feel it could work better. Thank you so much to all those of you who took the time to complete this survey and we will look carefully at your feedback and comments and incorporate them into our strategic planning. Our current focus is around school finances (which continue to be an enormous challenge) and looking at how the individual schools can streamline the curriculum & school practices to ensure a smooth transition for children moving between schools at the end of year 2.

You will have heard in the recent budget that schools were given an additional amount of funding. This is always good news, but the reality is always that the headlines don't tell the whole story and details can be hard to come by, but it seems that after some additional allocation and the ceasing/alteration of other income streams, the hard fact is that school budgets will be returned to where they were in 2010 – yes 2010!! This is why all schools, school leaders and governors face enormous challenges trying to set a balanced budget, not only for this year but for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we are so grateful for the money raised at PTA fundraising events at both schools throughout the year, and the money that you raise at such events is so vital.

And so to Christmas! Governors have been lucky enough to join in with some of the Christmas celebrations and I thoroughly enjoyed the Hampton Hill Christmas concert at St James's Church and am looking forward to a delicious Christmas lunch at Carlisle Infants!!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all staff at Carlisle Infants and Hampton Hill Juniors for all the hard work this term. There have been some challenges but for each challenge, there are many more successes and as usual school staff go above and beyond with their commitment to the children and families in our community. And lastly the governors of the Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Deb Long Chair of Governors