



LGC NEWSLETTER for Parents and Carers

October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

PARENT/CARER SURVEY Autumn 2020

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to the Local Governance Committee (LGC) annual survey.

- There is still time before the closing date of 23rd October, to send us your views by clicking on this link: [LGC survey Autumn 2020](#) (apologies if a previous link didn't work properly!)
- When the results have been analysed, we will provide a summary of the findings and how these will help to shape our work as a governance committee and that of the academy.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- We are now able to confirm that **Scott Brighton** has been elected unopposed as Parent Governor for a term of a further 4 years. Other governors are very grateful that Scott was willing to stand again and look forward to his continued contribution to our meetings.
- Although they are elected by fellow parents/carers, Parent Governors do not formally represent the views of parents and carers, but fulfil a really important role in our meetings by seeing developments through the eyes of a parent and bringing a parental perspective to our discussions.

REFLECTING ON THE LAST FEW MONTHS

- Governors have continued to meet, albeit 'virtually' since March and are delighted that all our children have now returned to school.
- The ongoing issues around Covid-19 have necessitated a number of changes to daily routines and we have been receiving regular updates from Mrs Coates. Governors made a conscious decision to ask for your feedback about the arrangements during partial closure and going forward, as we are all very keen to learn from these unprecedented experiences.
- Much of our recent discussion has been around the strategies the school is using to assess and close any educational gaps resulting from so many weeks away from 'normal' schooling. Thank you to you again for *your* support during these challenging months.

OUR NEW NURSERY PROVISION

The opportunity for Ravenfield to open its own nursery came during early 2020, and governors were grateful that the Trust ensured that all the necessary steps were taken very speedily to ensure this significant improvement in what Ravenfield offers, became a reality.

Preparation for a nursery included:

- a formal consultation process with a range of parties
- application to the DfE for permission to change our pupil age range
- staff appointments
- building modifications and purchase of new furniture and learning resources

All this was completed in 'record time', involving considerable work by Ravenfield and Trust staff over the summer break. This, and a significant investment of funding from the Trust, meant that our new nursery could open from the start of term which was a remarkable achievement – even more so whilst also coping with the impact of Covid-19! It is just such a shame that visits to the new provision have been limited due to restrictions which we know you will all understand. Hopefully though, there will be an opportunity for you all to see the nursery at some point. Governors are delighted that this opportunity arose as *all* MLT primary academies now have their own teacher-led nursery. Importantly, having continuity of expectations and approaches to teaching and learning from 3-11 will make a significant contribution to our drive to still further improve pupil outcomes.

A REMINDER ABOUT WHAT GOVERNORS DO

Although the focus of our discussions varies from meeting to meeting, the central focus of the LGC is to fulfil the 3 core functions of governance which are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff, and;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

WITH THIS MIND - WHAT ELSE HAVE GOVERNORS BEEN DISCUSSING?

- **School crossing patrol** - following a discussion in one meeting, governors are delighted that increased hours have now been put in place so the Crossing Warden is in place during the current extended arrival and departure periods
- **Strategic planning for 2020-21** - at the start of each school year, the LGC approves the key areas of development arrived at through a number of evaluation activities. This includes analysis of the school's performance at end of each key stage and leader's observations of strengths and areas for development. At Ravenfield, decisions about the most appropriate priorities are also helpfully informed by the additional perspective of leaders working *across* MLT schools and from reports commissioned from external partners.

- **Development priorities** - have been identified across aspects of academy life which reflect areas also used in the Ofsted inspection framework:
 - Quality of education
 - Behaviour and Attitudes
 - Personal development
 - Early Years Foundation Stage, and,
 - Leadership and Management.

Throughout the coming year, governors will focus on how leaders develop plans in these areas and ensure incremental progress towards achieving the planned outcomes from each area of development.

- **Lastly a plea for your help** - schools receive additional funding of over £1000 per pupil, based on family's eligibility for certain benefits. Recent discussion on our Pupil Premium strategy illustrated that Ravenfield may not be fully benefitting from all the funding to which the school is entitled. Please don't hesitate to speak in confidence to Mrs Coates or office staff if you are uncertain which benefits impact on this funding. This will help to ensure the school doesn't lose out on monies essential to providing the best for all our children. Thank you.

With best wishes from
Members of the Local Governance Committee

MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
Local Governance Committees in all MLT Primary Academies are now made up of 9 members. Community and Business/Education governors, the Chair and Vice-Chair are all appointed by the Trust in consultation with the LGC.		
Elected Parent governors	Community governors	Business/Education governors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Brighton • Lynsey Hobson (Vice Chair) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Peach • Steve Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Buxton (Chair) • (Awaiting MLT nominee)
Elected Staff governors		Academy Principal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Parker – teaching staff governor • Joanne McGregor – associate staff governor 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline Coates is automatically a member of the LGC
Ravenfield Primary Academy, Moor Lane North, Ravenfield, Rotherham S65 4LZ Telephone: 01709 542678 www.ravenfieldprimaryacademy.com		
<i>Maltby Learning Trust is an exempt charity regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company number 7033915). The Trust's registered office is Maltby Learning Trust c/o Maltby Academy, Braithwell Road, Maltby, Rotherham S66 8AB.</i>		