



Governors' Newsletter

December 2021

A note from the Chair of Governors, Rachel Leach



As I write my final newsletter piece I reflect on my time as a governor here at Green Ridge Academy. It has been wonderful visiting the school the past few weeks. When I visited Years 5 and 6, they were all focused on the task at hand. Year 5 were on Chapter 9 of the book *Wolf Brother*. It was clear pupils were enjoying the book as they were all very eager to tell me all about it.

Whilst working on their morning fluency, the students were looking at the word "impartial"; they had to write a sentence with the word included. All wanted to share their sentence and it was nice to see peers encouraging each other.

Although I will no longer be a governor at Green Ridge I will still be part of the school community. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the academic year brings for the school. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sophy Davies, Vice Chair of Governors

Well it's almost the end of term; it's dark when we wake up and when we head home, and we have to wrap up in hats and scarves.

I want to thank the school for working hard to keep the school



open through this term. This time in our lives is not easy for anyone, particularly those charged with the care of others.

I know you will all join me in wishing every member of staff at the school a good break and happy times with loved ones.

The festive break gives a wonderful period to spend some time together with your child, but don't forget about learning. Do it together! It could be reading a book, counting something, learning something new or taking a nature walk. Write a story about something or make a picture of your day... the opportunities are endless.

Lauren Curtis-Cross



As I have now settled into my new role as the non-teaching staff governor and am not involved with link visits, I wanted to take the opportunity to give you an insight into some of the things we have in place for our staff's wellness and wellbeing here at Green Ridge.

We have recently formed a Wellness and Wellbeing Committee, of which I'm sincerely proud to be a part. The committee is made up of teachers, teaching assistants, admin, site and nursery staff as well as a member of our Senior Leadership Team, who represent other staff members within their teams. We meet on a half-termly basis and discuss what already works and what we should continue to do, anything that can be done to improve wellness and wellbeing and any feedback or suggestions that have been raised.

It is also our responsibility to champion and support wellness and wellbeing within Green Ridge and to make a positive difference.

We have updated our wellbeing charter and have given all staff access to resources that may support their wellness and wellbeing, one being the ShinyMind app: a dedicated app with useful mental health support tools. We have also recently distributed a pulse survey to give all members of staff an opportunity to feed back about different aspects which may have an impact on their wellness and wellbeing.

With wellness and wellbeing being such an important topic (now more than ever because of the impact of the pandemic!) it's vital that we continue to do everything that we possibly can to support our team.

Sean English



The past two terms have been an excellent opportunity for the school to start to reintroduce many of the valuable aspects that we know the staff and children look forward to across the year, such as school trips, PTA events and new additions such as sports competitions.

As we head towards the end of the Autumn term, we have had to reinstate some social distancing measures but it has still been such a pleasure to see the learning opportunities in place for the children across the school.

One aspect that has been shared with Governors this term includes curriculum information. Mr Ladyman presented to governors on the Writing curriculum across the school and it was a pleasure to see him share the work that the teaching staff are completing to support the children in developing during their time at Green Ridge.

This term will mark my last as the Teaching Governor within the school and it has been such a pleasure to work with the Governors during my time within the school. Their passion, support and expertise has

been something which I know has contributed to the development of the school so I would also like to express my thanks to the Governors at Green Ridge Academy.

Tara Erdos



During the last few weeks, our link governors have been visiting the school to support their key areas. As the Health & Safety Lead for the school, I had a link visit with our H&S link governor, Chris Lickfold. It was Chris' first visit in this role and he came prepared with guidance on areas to check from REAch2 and spent a good amount of time with me and our Site Manager, Mr Morris. He asked us questions about our H&S policies, and how we record evidence that our procedures follow that policy.

As a very new building with a great many sophisticated systems in place, we have to make sure all the plant machinery and site equipment is maintained properly and Mr Morris showed him how we record our numerous checks that have to be carried out. Finally, a tour of the site gave Chris an insight into any challenging areas that we have to keep in mind with our Health and Safety checks, risk assessments to anticipate any possible issues and actions on how we minimise these risks. It is always useful to have a fresh set of eyes to sense-check what we have put in place, and we are very lucky to have such a positive and supportive governing body!

Judith Glover



As a REAch2 appointed governor for Green Ridge Academy, I wanted to update the wider Green Ridge community about my first face-to-face visit in over a year, and some of the training that governors must undertake to enable us to fulfil our duties.

I visited Green Ridge on the afternoon of the 10th of November 2021, meeting with Assistant Headteacher Sam Kaye. I am the link Governor for Year 1, so I was able to discuss

the impact of transition from Reception to Year 1 and how children were assessed on their progress in phonics and identified for interventions if needed.

I also met with Vicki Gardiner, the SENCO and visited each class with Vicki as the Link Governor for SEN. I was fortunate to witness the Year 4 Provision Hub in action. Green Ridge was buzzing with engaged children actively participating in their learning in stimulating learning environments, both indoors and outdoors.

This term I have completed training in the following areas; The Role of the SEND Governor, Ofsted Inspections: Step-by-Step, Governance Visits to Schools and Holding to Account: How to Question and Challenge. All these courses have supported me in asking more precise questions that will focus my challenge to the leadership of Green Ridge, which I hope will enable supportive evaluation of the quality of education that Green Ridge is providing.

Chris Lickfold

Although I was appointed as a governor of Green Ridge in the Spring, I feel this has been the first real term with less Covid disruption and an opportunity for me to get into the school and experience all of the amazing things that happen.

Within my role as Governor, I oversee Health and Safety, so it was a pleasure to visit the school, look at this area and be fully comforted that everything that needs to be done is happening and everything that needs checking has been checked. The safety of the students, staff and visitors at Green Ridge is treated with the utmost importance.

Equally this term I have been really impressed with the school, its staff and finding out more about the Academy Trust works as a whole. It has also been fascinating for me to find out more about how the school operates on a strategic level. As a secondary school Assistant Headteacher there are obvious similarities within this, however, there are also massive differences, and this has been a steep learning curve for me. This has been a challenging term for everyone, however, from a governor perspective it's been a real pleasure to witness first-hand how well Green Ridge is doing and how the education of all students is still flourishing .

On a personal note, I have completed Safeguarding training, Governor training and Prevent training, all from the perspective of a local governor. It was also a pleasure to help support the fantastic firework event held in November and to meet so many parents...I hope you enjoyed the hot dogs and burgers!

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Laura Nunn



As we find ourselves in the final few weeks before Christmas, there is inevitably so much for everyone to organise – Christmas presents, wrapping, food shopping, volunteering, making sure your child has the right Christmas jumper/raffle prize

donation/costume for the Christmas show – it can be overwhelming.

It's worth pausing then and reflecting for a moment how much Green Ridge has managed to enrich our children's lives over the last term. In spite of the continuing disruption of Covid, the school has managed to organise trips, enrichment opportunities, performances and – with the help of the PTA – community events such as the fantastic fireworks display.

I conducted my link visit in November this year; I have followed the current Year 3 cohort on their journey through the school, and it is always a delight to visit them and see how much they have grown and learned. This term I have also become the link governor for Little Ridges, and it was fascinating to spend some time in the nursery provision and hear about the outdoor learning and how – what looks like simple “play” to an outsider like me – is carefully constructed to enhance children's skills and imagination.

I also cover Equality and Diversity, and was really pleased to see a poster showing all the languages spoken by nursery children, celebrating their

heritages. Equality and Diversity truly runs through the heart of the school.

Wishing our community of staff and parents a very happy festive season and – once all of the Christmas preparations are over – a well-deserved rest.

Chris Stait



The Autumn term always flies by for me, with so much packed in and to accomplish between the end of the summer season, and before the big

Christmas break. It's also a time for change, with the new school year and all that brings with it, and the rapid change in seasons from the end of the summer, through the dramatic autumn colours into the darkness and cold of winter with its promise of various festivals of light.

The governors meet formally every half term with the senior leadership to oversee the effective management of the school, including its strategy and performance amongst other things. This year I'm the link governor for Behaviours and Attitude, and so also visited the school to undertake a deep dive of the strategy, processes and implementation on that key strategic area. It was great to see robust, efficient systems which genuinely place the pupil at its centre, with the clear aim of creating impactful change for the better, which is regularly monitored and updated.

I'm also the monitoring link for Year 2, so I had the opportunity to attend a couple of classes to see the magic happen. For me, this is the most rewarding part of being a governor. There was clearly a strong learning culture, with pupils supporting pupils, both in sharing knowledge and celebrating other's successes.

It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and other members of the local community at the recent firework display, and I look forward to more opportunities in the coming year.

Have a wonderful, safe, festive break, full of generosity, kindness and cheer.