



Governors' Newsletter

April 2022

A note from the Chair of Governors, Sophy Davies



Ofsted Update

Well, after expecting our Ofsted visit around the time of the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic and then waiting to see when it would happen - it has finally happened!

As Chair of Governors, I was invited to be interviewed alongside another governor, the Chair of our Cluster Board, and members of the Trust's governance. It was a nerve-wracking experience, wanting to represent the school the best we could and be sure we could answer the questions of the inspectors. In the end it wasn't so bad, they asked about governance and experience of the children, they triangulated our data and experiences, and I feel we reflected our support and challenge to the school well. Thanks to Laura Nunn for joining me in the interview and other governors for helping us prep.

As governors, we joined the inspection debrief following the inspection, and heard the verbal report from the lead inspector. As she spoke, I was glowing with pride, as I am sure others were. The way the inspectors spoke about the school reflected everything about it, its ethos and culture, its curriculum, its support for pupils and for each other as staff. That is testament to every member of staff who works at the school for showing the inspectors everything that is amazing about the school.

The report has now been published and is on the website for all to see; there are so many things it

recognises that we will continue to celebrate. The "Outstanding" judgement in Personal Development is well deserved as it recognises so many of the things about the school's approach. Of course, there are things to work on from the inspection, but they are things the school was already aware of and we as governors will continue to support them in everything they do.

Class Visit Update

I came to visit Year 4 as part of my routine termly visit a few weeks ago. I joined just as lunch was finishing and, as always, the behaviour of the children was impeccable as they returned to class.

I joined a PHSE class, something I had never seen before and wasn't really a thing when I was at school. It was lovely to see the school exploring different topics with the pupils and on the day, I joined it was about risk. As a programme management professional that made me smile a lot.

It was great to see the children discussing the possible risks and dangers posed by different scenarios and also thinking about how they could mitigate them. There were some very imaginative ideas thrown in there too.

Some of the children were asked to share their thoughts with the class and it was good to see them trying out public speaking in a safe environment as that is something that will help them in later life.

The class ended with a discussion about online safety and the risks and mitigations that there are – something that is so important in the times we live in.

Once again it was great to visit Year 4 and I look forward to seeing them again next term.

Harley Chalmers



I was honoured to take on the role of Teaching Staff Governor at the beginning of the Spring term and I am learning the ropes from my fellow governors. As I do not take part in link visits in my capacity as a governor, I thought that I would share some of the work the school are doing around equality and diversity.

Another of my hats is Equality and Diversity Lead for the school, and over the last few years I have been working with all staff to develop and maintain an inclusive curriculum to ensure that people of all races, genders, sexualities, religions, disabilities, and ethnicities are visible and celebrated throughout the subjects. The staff work hard to include a diverse range of role models and important figures through history.

As a school, we have also celebrated special events in the disability awareness calendar as well as various religious holidays that are covered in assemblies. For example, in assemblies we have celebrated Martin Luther King Day, Children's Mental Health Week and International Women's Day. The whole school took part in Odd Sock Day to raise awareness of Downs Syndrome and celebrate our differences.

In February we celebrated LGBT History Month and the children competed to design a new logo for the event. Next term, we will have a whole week celebrating Diversity which will culminate in a school gallery. Every class will showcase their chosen role model by decorating their classroom door and the children will visit each year group on a tour of the school. The hard work of all the staff creating these fantastic opportunities contributed to the school achieving outstanding in Personal Development during the recent Ofsted inspection. As I'm sure you will agree, it is important for the children and our families to see themselves represented; this adds to our culture of inclusion.

Lauren Curtis-Cross

Well, a lot has certainly happened since the last Governors' Newsletter back in December, notably, Ofsted! It's been a long time coming and what a relief to know that it's finally done (for now anyway as I'm sure four years will be here before we know it!). The hard work and hours put in by staff was astonishing. After receiving the call on the Monday, many members of staff were here well into the evening and pizza was provided to fuel them through.



After a long but successful first day, many staff stayed yet again, this time with goodies purchased from the local fish and chip shop! The atmosphere was like none other, and it was amazing to see the Green Ridge family come together. What a truly wonderful and well-deserved outcome rounded off with some celebratory cupcakes from REAch2!

In the absence of having a finance link governor at current, I've also recently been fortunate enough to spend some time with our School Business Manager, Mrs. Erdos, to gain a better understanding of the budget-setting process. I found this hugely insightful, and I look forward to learning more about other non-curriculum areas in the future.

I've also recently been involved with organising the recent Parent Governor election as Laura's term was coming to an end. With help from Mrs. Upfold in the school office, we were able to print and stuff many, many envelopes to distribute to parents/carers to enable them to vote. After the close of the election last week, I also assisted with counting the ballots. This was a task in itself, and we will certainly look into future-proofing this process in readiness for the next governor election. Well done to Laura once again!

I look forward to seeing what next term brings (the final term of this academic year, already!) and I wish you all a wonderful Easter break!

Judith Glover



As a REAch2 appointed governor for Green Ridge Academy, I want to thank all the staff, parents, and children for contributing to Green Ridge Academy's first Ofsted inspection. I also wanted to update the wider Green Ridge community about my recent visit to Green Ridge 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 22nd of March 2022. I met with newly appointed Deputy Headteacher Sam Kaye. I am the link Governor for Year 1, so I was able to discuss the progress of students against their age-related expectations. I also met with Vicki Gardiner, the SENCo and discussed the progress of SEND interventions and training for the staff who deliver bespoke support to children. It was also pleasing to hear that the first post-lockdown coffee morning for parents and carers of children with special educational needs took place in the Spring term, and I look forward to this informal network to continue to grow.

This term I have completed training in the following areas: 'Panel work: an introduction' and 'How to run an effective exclusion review panel.' Both courses have supported me in thinking carefully about procedures and relevant policies as a potential panel member. This was really useful; despite being involved in various panels in previous schools. Being a panel member is a significant role for any governing board member that ensures panel decisions regarding exclusions, disciplinary and complaints procedures are lawful, rational, fair, and proportionate.

Chris Lickfold



What an amazingly busy term it has been. As a governor it has been a joy to see the school return to some kind of normality, with school trips starting again, and clubs and activities all in full swing.

From a governor perspective the key feature of this term was

obviously the Ofsted inspection! It was great to see so many of the amazing aspects of the school recognised in the report, and whilst, from a biased perspective, we believe the school is outstanding we were glad to see Ofsted shared our opinion on so many aspects.

Thank you to all of the parents who have spoken to me this term or passed their thoughts on. We always look to gather parents' views, in a variety of ways, such as parental surveys, the school's Parent Forum and meeting with parents at events like the Pupil Learning Reviews.

I hope all students, staff and parents have a lovely Easter break.

Laura Nunn



As one of the few governing board members without a background in education, the experience of Ofsted was entirely new to me, and it was absolutely incredible the way the school responded to the inevitable short notice call like a well-oiled machine.

Within the two days Ofsted visited, I got to see the school showing itself at its very best – yes – the many things the school has worked towards and is rightfully proud of, but also the teamwork and trust that staff have in each other. It was nerve-wracking for me, as a governor, to represent our Local Governing Board with Sophy; I imagine it was many times more so for the staff. The school thoroughly deserved its judgement, and I am confident there are plans in place for its continuous improvement.

I was also pleased to represent the governors on the recent assessment Green Ridge had for UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Silver Award. The Deputy Headteacher, Sam Kaye, has been working exceptionally hard on this – you will have seen regular articles in the newsletter, and perhaps your child has been awarded a Rights Respector of the Week? I was pleased to be able to speak with both my "parent hat" and "governor hat" on about how the school's work on this has been positively impacting our children's conversations and understanding

about their rights. It was lovely to see that the assessors thought so highly of us.

My link visit earlier this term was to Year 3, who were learning about the Romans, and completing online quizzes about digital safety. The children I spoke to were thoroughly engaged in their learning and spoke highly of Green Ridge, their friends and their teachers.

Earlier this month I was able to see Green Ridge perform at the Royal Albert Hall with choirs from across Buckinghamshire. It was such a special occasion; the children performing were fantastic and a real credit to the school. This sort of extracurricular opportunity is just one of the very many reasons Green Ridge thoroughly deserves its Outstanding judgement for Personal Development.

Chris Stait



I love the Spring. A time for renewal, new beginnings, and optimism, with increasingly bright, long and warmer days with the underlying

promise of a wonderful summer ahead; what's not to like?! My Spring term at Green Ridge has been busy. In addition to the regular Governors' meetings, there's also been an Ofsted inspection, a link monitoring visit for the key strategic development area of Behaviour and Attitudes, a drop in to see a Year 2 class in action, a visit to see the Friday "Always Award", and most recently, a Governor election.

My linked monitoring visit continues to provide a great opportunity to check and challenge what is reported at the Governors' meetings, as well as providing a progress update against the school development plan.

The school is on track against plan and continues to drive positive changes with respect to Behaviours and Attitudes, with a focus on its key priorities, such as embedding pupil leadership across the school, and reducing the number of incidents of inappropriate behaviour.

The detailed feedback from Ofsted was also overwhelmingly positive, and I've focussed my attention on the area of the school's development plan where it reinforced work should continue with regards Behaviour and Attitudes. Overall, I'm pleased with all that I've seen and reported with respect to my linked monitoring area.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to drop in on the Always Award celebration with Mr Wanford and the Always pupils nominated that week for their demonstration of the core values. It was fantastic to see the pupils visibly happy to be there (it wasn't just the hot chocolate!), enjoying the conversation, and discussing their future career aspirations. It clearly makes an impact on the pupils having Mr Wanford take the time to do this each week, which leads to neatly to my final paragraph...

I'll let others speak to the highly positive Ofsted report, but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight and thank all of the staff for their continual passion and dedication in making Green Ridge the success that it is.

I wish you all a wonderful couple of weeks before the commencement of the Summer term.