

# Whitehall Park School

## L.A.B Newsletter

### Letter from the Vice Chair of the Local Advisory Board : Report on Autumn Term 2018

We had two meetings in the autumn term in our new role as a more streamlined Local Advisory Board for Whitehall Park School. The LAB has two vacancies – one for a parent member and one for a community member. The roles have been advertised and have stimulated some interest.

In October we agreed the following individual areas of school life reflecting the Ofsted framework will be monitored by a Lead adviser.

Leadership, management and overall effectiveness

Attainment and achievement, including Pupil Premium Grant

Safeguarding and Additional Educational needs

Parental and Community Engagement

Curriculum

In October the Head gave us a verbal report on key issues at the start of the school term including pupil numbers against a backdrop of demographic changes in Islington and other inner London Boroughs; improvements to the school site including the playground and boundary walls. The Board approved the key priorities in the School Development and Evaluation Plan for the school year which will drive forward school improvement. We also considered external monitoring reports relating to safeguarding and school improvement which were positive

Finally we noted progress with a project driven by Ms Birkett and her team on 'What makes WPS a unique school ' gathering evidence including the involvement of the children, staff and families and as agreed at our December meeting we will present a page on the website in the new year.

In December the focus of the meeting was the half termly school report that the Board receive, which shows us the key data and information we need in order to understand how the school is doing. We can also see what the school is aiming to achieve. As Advisers, one of our jobs is to both challenge and support the Headteacher. One of the ways we do this is by asking questions about the progress and attainment of the school. In December we looked at data from the Early Years' groups and the year groups up to Year 4. Progress is pleasing in terms of it being on track to meet targets and there will be updated performance data to the spring term LAB meeting

The Board also discussed the challenging budget position and admissions numbers and will return to this at our Spring Term meeting with options. The Board was particularly pleased to hear about the impact of the School Council, the receipt of different awards for the school and progress with the playground and a positive survey of our staff.

We normally have a development session and in December Nicki Wright (Assistant Head) and Kerry Donovan (KS2 Leader) led a session on Teaching Learning and Assessment at Whitehall Park. As a Board we want to not only provide the best school possible for the children, but as the school grows, also prepare them for transition to secondary school.

Some of the Advisory Board Members were able to observe a recent Parents' evening and were able to talk with parents and hear views on the School. The work in the children's books was impressive.

Our clerk keeps us well informed about national developments in school governance. As a Board, we need to keep abreast of the wider educational world as that helps us perform the role.

Details about the Board and its work is available on the website in the ' Meet the Team section'

Best wishes to all our families and staff for 2019

Linda Trapnell Vice Chair of the Local Advisory Board