

## **GOVERNING BODY ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR 2019-20**

Orchardside had a difficult start when settling into the new building as the construction work was not completed on time and the staff had to contend with builders on the site for the whole of the first term. There were also ongoing “snagging” matters that disrupted the smooth operations of the school. In addition, some of the work was below standard. In particular, the internal security doors were not fit for purpose and eventually had to be replaced at a later date.

The Ofsted inspection took place before the staff had been able to adjust fully to working in one building after years in two separate, smaller units. Nevertheless, despite the unexpected resignation of the Headteacher, the staff responded positively to the Ofsted report and under new leadership, have made great progress in achieving greater consistency in teaching and learning and in responding to pupil behaviour while continuing to maintain high standards of safeguarding and pupil welfare. The Governors, with the help of the Local Authority, have supported and encouraged these developments and have welcomed the proposals for an enhanced curriculum and the emphasis on staff development. The improvement in performance of students qualifying for the pupil premium has been marked, as has the overall attendance record.

Inevitably, the number on roll has fluctuated and has been affected recently by the reduction in permanent exclusions from secondary schools in the borough, but also because a significant number of students have been successfully re integrated back to mainstream via the Fair Access Panel (FAP). The school has begun to extend local provision for Enfield schools and now has a successful Turnaround scheme for pupils from secondary schools. This will be resumed once the current health crisis is over. The staff room was remodelled to provide a base for this work and the staff room housed elsewhere.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has severely disrupted the work of the school but, with the unselfish support of the staff, the school remained open for the most vulnerable pupils and children of key workers and support offered to those remaining at home. In June, students in Years 9, 8 and 10 were able to return on selected days. Arrangements are now being made for the safe return of all students in September.

The finances of the school remain a challenge. Until now it has been possible to avoid a deficit, but it is clear, that in future, income will not be sufficient to meet expenditure, let alone provide a fund for contingencies. It has not been possible to produce a three-year budget as the true cost of running the school building is not yet fully known. When this becomes clearer, the Governors will be able to set a budget for 2021 onwards.

The Governing Body is now almost complete although it has been difficult to find parent Governors. The Teaching and Learning and Resources Committees have functioned effectively and the former has been particularly active in supporting change.

The school has been on a difficult but exciting journey and on behalf of all the Governors I want to thank the staff who have all worked so hard and effectively to meet the challenges the school has faced.

There is still much to do, not least because of the pandemic, but the Governors are confident that we have a well organised and efficient school with caring and enthusiastic staff, and that the school will continue to progress rapidly and build on what has been achieved so far.