

HPP Governors' Update: Summer 2022

Welcome to Hampton Primary Partnership Governors' update



In this update the Chair of Governors' reflects on another busy term and as we come to the end of the school year we can look back on a successful year. The partnership has seen many changes again this term with old friends arriving back, and new colleagues soon to arrive with fresh ideas. One thing remains constant, we always have the childrens' education at the heart of everything we do.

We have reports from our main committees who focus their work on School Improvement and Resources, that's people, finances and buildings. We are delighted to see our new governors settling in and contributing to the partnership bringing their legal and built environment skills to bear.

Notes from the Chair – Sej Bhabra



It's a delight to be able to write this end-of-year note on the back of a full year at school with no lockdowns and partial closures! As you will see later in this note from our Committee Chairs, it's been another busy term of governance activity and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all governors for their wonderful contributions and for being the best they can be to help HPP continue to be a fantastic school. I also wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude to all departing governors - Kath Munday, Andrea Arbiter and Clare Struthers - for their invaluable guidance and counsel over the months and years - more on this later. We welcomed two new governors this year - elected as parent governors - James Leverton and Polly Davies, who have already made a tremendous impact. Courtney Treco also joins us as a new governor. I'm pleased to confirm that just this week, we finalised the appointment of Clare Struthers' successor as our new governance professional / clerk. More in the next newsletter next term, but Ruth Scott brings a wealth of governance experience and will be a great addition to the team.

Earlier this term, we held the governing body's annual strategy day and it was nice to be able to do this in person again after lots of Zoom meetings. One of the many things we covered was succession planning and the future state of governance, looking at a variety of different scenarios and potential risks. There is lots of change, with the departing governors and Heads of School, and with my own term expiring in December. Therefore I'm thrilled with all the recent appointments, our new Heads of School – Ms Cook and the return of Mr James – and joining governors. So I am confident the next era of governance and leadership will build on what we have already achieved, and I look forward to sharing more details in September.

We continue to plan for an imminent Ofsted inspection of HISN and are excited to showcase to them the excellent work that takes place at the school. I explained in length in the last newsletter about the process, but did want to remind you that the new OFSTED framework and criteria has much stricter guidelines for schools. Only 2% (vs 10% from the old framework) have been judged as Outstanding. Everyone involved at HPP is obviously aspiring for an Outstanding rating, but given the new framework, we will also be very proud with a Good rating.

Finally, I wanted to thank Ms Lockey and the leadership team, all teaching, admin and support staff, the entire governing board, HISNA and FOHJS, parent volunteers, and of course the entire parent community, for all working in such a collaborative manner to make HISN and HJS two wonderful schools that we can all be wonderfully proud of.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

School Improvement

As part of their work the School Improvement Committee (SIC) carry out a monitoring visit to both schools each term. In this update we have included information about the school monitoring visits and SIC's meeting with the School Improvement Partner. The School Improvement Partner (SIP) works with partnership's leaders to support, challenge and validate the schools self-evaluation.

The meeting with the SIP provided a brilliant opportunity to review school evaluation, against the agreed objectives. This work also helps the schools to prepare for future Ofsted inspections.

SIC Highlights at HISN

Summer Term Focus: SEND; Maths and Geography

Why: SEND is a key focus in Ofsted inspections and there is a high likelihood that there will be a deep dive into Geography during inspections.

Key findings & feedback: The School Improvement Partner's feedback was positive, commenting that the SEND narrative is very strong, and observing that teaching is inclusive ensuring that children have access to the full curriculum.

For Maths he praised the subject leader's good clarity of thought and passion, commenting on evidence of good progression for both Maths and Geography across HISN from nursery to year 2. The SIP also commented on consistency of practice across HPP as a real strength.

SIC Highlights at HJS

Summer Focus: SEND; History and Geography

Why: SEND is a key focus in Ofsted inspections and there is a high likelihood that there will be a deepdive into either History or Geography during inspections.

Key findings & feedback: The SIP commented on evidence of practices being inclusive and helping SEND children develop their independence.

Resources

With the start of the new financial year in April, work in the early part of term focused on tightening up our draft three-year budget and producing a final version, ahead of submission to the local authority in June. There are always some unknowns during the budget setting exercise in spring, as we wait for confirmation of pay increases, grant income and the other costs we incur in order to keep both schools running.

Our new School Business Manager, Lauren Drake, who joined us at Easter, has overseen this work as she settles into her role. It's great to have Lauren on board and proactively getting involved in a range of activities across the partnership involving the finance, HR and premises functions.

On the subject of premises, many will have seen that the old nursery building at HISN is no more! Work will continue over the summer to build the replacement, which is expected to be occupied by our nursery children from early October.

James Leverton recently completed our annual Health and Safety governor monitoring visit, observing facilities and activities across both schools. During his visit James observed the nursery building site perimeter and monitored the impact on children of the building work at HISN.

Finally, as the end of term approaches, thanks to all members of the Resources Committee for their time and input over the past year, and we look forward to picking up again in September.

Parent Survey

We will be sharing the results of the parents survey soon. We are sorry for the delay but we have used the extra time to improve the way we present the results providing the reasons why we asked particular questions, what you told us and what we plan to do as a result.

We focused on the following areas this year:

- Providing the children with a safe, enjoyable learning environment
- The range of subjects offered
- Communication between parents and the schools, including access to their class teacher
- SEND provision
- The Leadership
- Uniform affordability
- Overall satisfaction

We had a total of 291 survey responses split across the schools as follows:

- Hampton Junior School (HJS) = 128
- Hampton Infant School and Nursery (HISN) = 111
- Both = 52

Parents and carers provided lots of very positive feedback, and identified some areas where the schools could do even better. Thank you to everyone who took part, it was great to hear from so many parents and carers about the partnership's performance!

Say Hello Wave Goodbye:

It is great to welcome a new governor to the team and – although bittersweet – it is also good to take this opportunity to say a huge thanks to our leavers for their valuable contributions to the partnership and to the children's education.



It has been with deep gratitude and some sadness that we have said goodbye to our Co-Vice Chair, Kath Munday. Kath has been a governor at the partnership for eight years and during that time has made a considerable contribution to the running of our schools. Kath exemplifies the governor's role as a critical friend using all the information we have available to encourage the schools to be even better.



You may recall Andrea was our brilliant clerk and she agreed to stay on the governing board as an associate governor, when she took a position at a multi-academy trust. The clerk is key to the smooth running of the governing board and the committees. The clerk provides the governors, who are volunteers, with professional support and advice. We agreed Andrea's Associate role would help the smooth transition to a new clerk and towards the end of the summer term we agreed 'mission accomplished'. We say thanks again Andrea for all her hard work and the contribution she has made to the schools.



Clare Struthers, our clerk, is moving on to a new challenge. In the relatively short time Clare was with us she has made a big impact on the way the governors operate, providing us with advice, helping us to improve the policies we use to set school standards, as well as recording all the activities of the governing board and committees. Without this record the many improvements and proposals from our activities would get lost and Clare has made a brilliant contribution!



We are delighted to welcome Courtney Treco to the board as a co-opted governor. Courtney brings considerable project management and financial planning skills, and experience to the board. Courtney will join the Resources Committee and is looking

forward to contributing to the school community and to helping the next generation of children achieve their goals.

School Development Plans

The School Development Plans provide a roadmap for improvement and help focus resources on key priorities, as well as identifying why something is a priority. We are pleased to note that we are making excellent progress against the plans, and along with our external School Improvement Partner, the Governing Board regularly reviews progress. You can find out more about the schools development plans by following the links, below.

[HJS Development Plan 2021-22](#)

[HISN Development Plan 2021-22](#)

The HPP School Governors

“We must promote the highest standards for all the pupils, help to set the overall aims and objectives and monitor the school’s progress towards achieving them.”

You can find out more about the work of the HPP Governors and how we provide strategic direction for the partnership by clicking the link below.

[More about HPP Governors & their roles](#)

The HPP Partnership Principles



Contacting HPP Governors

As governors we always welcome constructive feedback and enjoy discussing how we can make the schools even better. If you have any additional comments or questions that are not

answered here, or by the linked online resources, you can contact the Governors of Hampton Primary Partnership via email to the Chair of Governors – sejhabra@hpp.school
