

Junior School

Infant School

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High Down Schools

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Down Road
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Executive Headteacher

Mrs A Cowan

19 October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Feedback from the 2017 parent questionnaires highlighted the need to improve communication from the Governors and we intend to use these termly newsletters to keep you updated on our work as a governing body. This term 1 newsletter contains highlights of the recent Governors meeting, a summary from the year 6 parent exit questionnaires and links to a few interesting sources of information.

Summary of recent Governors Board meeting

The school governing body met on the evening of 25 September to cover a busy and interesting agenda. The meeting was Chaired by Gail Meacock and the highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Hannah Jones was welcomed as the recently elected parent governor and Rob Audain was re-elected as vice-chair by unanimous vote.
- The Year 6 SATs results from 2017/18 academic year were reviewed and it was great to note that the High Down results were above national averages, with maths and reading significantly above. Progress in writing will be a focus topic for improvement (see next bullet).
- The core objective of this meeting was to agree the 2018/19 Raising Attainment and Progress Plan (RAPP). The RAPP was presented by Mrs Cowan and noted to be very well written, thorough and challenging. The board was also presented very positive feedback on the RAPP from Sue Ivermee (Director of School Improvement from the Lighthouse Schools Partnership). Key focus areas include:
 - Improving standards of writing,
 - Maintaining the improvement in maths,
 - Raising outcomes for vulnerable children,
 - Further enhancing leadership at all levels within the school
 - Enhancing the use of the outdoor learning environment in the Early Years
- The other topics covered were agreeing annual governor roles, accepting the safeguarding policy and planning preparations for an OFSTED inspection.

Results of Year 6 exit Survey

In July 2018, a questionnaire was distributed to each of our 87 departing Year 6 students. 30 responses were received so many thanks to all those who took the time to respond.

The overall view of the school is extremely positive with 29/30 responses declaring themselves happy overall and ready to recommend the school (19/30 strongly agreed). Key points highlighted were the richness of the experiences and cultural awareness (both scored 30/30 agreement). In addition, the school was seen as a safe, strong at promoting online safety, looking after the children and providing a safe learning environment (all 29/30 agreement). Written comments underscored the schools variety of extra-curricula activities, positive focus on values and the strength of the teaching staff.

It was notable that only a small number of responses (3/30) declared any disagreement. Despite these being a small number the feedback from everyone is important as we strive for continuous improvement. Therefore, the points raised will be considered by the school leadership team and discussed at the next governors board meeting in November.

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Links to useful information

Below are some useful sources of information about the school governing body, details about the operating policies of the school and how to understand your child's curriculum in more detail.

School policies <http://highdownschools.co.uk/our-school/policies/>
LSP policies <http://www.lsp.org.uk/index.php/policies/>
Governors Info <http://highdownschools.co.uk/staff-governors/governors/>

Yearly curriculum summaries (click on year for more details):

Infants <http://highdownschools.co.uk/infants/curriculum/>
Juniors <http://highdownschools.co.uk/juniors/curriculum-information/>

Parents also have an opportunity to give feedback on the school via the Parent View site (operated by Ofsted):

Parent View <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

The views of parents are important, so if you have any questions, concerns or a view point to share then we can be contacted by email chair.governor@highdownschools.org

Yours sincerely

Gail Meacock and Nolan Hibberd

Co-Chairs of Governors

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