



where every opportunity
shapes a life

Governors' Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020

Your Governors:

Simon Carter

Liz Herod

Eleni Maistraki-Kelly

Suki Ranu

Ranjit Chana

Claire Bevan

Kyla Parmley

Helen Haines

Contact us:

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or via the school office

From the Chair:



I think we can all agree that it has been a challenging year for everybody but I also take huge heart from the way that the Western House community has rallied, supported and delivered on every front. The joy, energy, colour and excitement that coursed through the corridors when the school fully reopened in September was palpable. The resilience of our children has been nothing short of remarkable and a source of enormous hope as we look to the future. Thank you.

Simon Carter

Welcome:

From all of the Governors to all new parents to Western House. We hope that you and your children have found it easy to settle and that you have felt well supported and informed, in particular that you feel people are approachable and that you know where to turn if there are any problems or aspects of your son or daughter's education that you would like to discuss. Please let us know about your experiences so that we can all make the school the best it can be.

Your Governors:

There have been some changes to the team over the past 12 months so we thought it would be timely to introduce your governors and our areas of responsibility. First of all, we are delighted to welcome Helen Haines back on to the Academy Council as a Staff Governor after a period away to complete her degree studies. This term, we are also very pleased to welcome Eleni Maistraki-Kelly as a new Community Governor. Eleni brings a wealth of digital technology experience to the Academy Council, filling a very relevant skills gap and complementing the range of education, business, project, and legal expertise we have amongst us.



Academy
Council



Simon Carter



Liz Herod



Eleni Maistraki-Kelly



Kyla Parmley
Staff Governor



Coral Snowden
Principal



Suki Ranu



Ranjit Siddle
Parent Governors



Claire Bevan



Helen Haines
Staff Governor

“we are committed to providing first-class education and a safe environment for the children of Western House Academy to allow them to flourish and succeed in life”

the
Governors



What have we been doing?

Whilst we have not been able to get into school as much we would usually, the governors have nevertheless found ourselves kept busy. Our focus has not waived from the **safety and wellbeing** of our children at Western House Academy, their **access to the widest educational opportunities we can offer**, and their **academic and social confidence**.

Of course, the impact of COVID has been uppermost in our minds over the spring and summer and we worked closely with Mrs Snowden and the senior leadership to provide a sounding board for their operational plans. Sadly, the situation with COVID pervades and even as we write, there are year groups affected across the school, but we hope you can take confidence from the way the school has acted throughout and the efforts that have been made to maintain your children's education.

This term, each governor has been looking closely at their respective link areas of school activity.

Claire Bevan has conducted a series of safeguarding checks and will maintain oversight of safeguarding systems and processes over the rest of the year. **Liz Herod** has also been looking at our SEND support.

Liz Herod and **Ranjit Siddle** have been engaging with year leaders to look at pupil progress and planning in key stage and intermediate year groups respectively and will continue to monitor progress over the rest of the year. **Suki Ranu** meanwhile has been taking a look at EYFS, especially after the fantastic investment we were able to make last year in a new outdoor facility which has been well used despite COVID restrictions.

You will be aware of some other big initiatives that have been introduced into the curriculum: **Ranjit Siddle** has been monitoring Accelerated Reader since its introduction last academic year, **Claire Bevan** has been keeping an eye on the introduction of White Rose Maths, **Suki Ranu** is looking at the implementation of Hamilton Science, while **Simon Carter** has been casting his eye over our values based philosophy.

And behind all of this, **Simon Carter** has responsibility for oversight of strategic and financial plans. **Helen Haines** has been monitoring staff and pupil wellbeing, whilst **Kyla Parmley** keeps an overview on Health & Safety. And **Eleni Maistraki-Kelly** has completed an extensive onboarding programme.

Our aim, with all, is to provide external sets of eyes and judgements that the school has the right plans and activities in place to deliver its curriculum. We all share the same interest in your children's development - we are universally proud of Western House Academy, its passion and spirit, we hope you are too.

The last word...

“As a Community Governor for Western Houses Academy, I have been so proud of how the staff, pupils and families have faced the challenges of this very different school year. The importance of the partnership between WHA and the families in our community in the current situation has been highlighted by the need to provide the best we can for the pupils. Everyone has been only too aware of the need for the children to return and resume their in-school education and for parents to confidently place their trust in Mrs Snowden and her staff in providing a safe environment in which the children can thrive and progress.”

Liz Herod