

St John Bosco College

A report from the Governing Body for 2017/2018

Our school has had a year of steady progress following on from our Ofsted classification of a 'Good' school in the previous academic year. This was the first full academic year for our new Headteacher, Mr Paul Dunne. The Governors were involved in the replacement of our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Tom Raymond, who became a Head of his own school and left at Christmas 2017. We assisted the Headteacher in recruitment of a new Deputy and were delighted to confirm the appointment of Maria Bud, a promotion for Maria from Assistant Headteacher. She made an immediate impact with new initiatives for Data analysis and performance management.

The Governors set demanding targets for the school to maintain the marketing initiative and increase the numbers of students at SJBC. We have over 540 students starting this September which is our highest ever number. We also continued to supervise the existing financial deficit and ensure that costs were kept at a minimum whilst ensuring teaching and learning standards are driven forwards. Our recent exam results (2018) show steady progress with some significant increases in attainment and an indication of a positive Progress 8 score. Our results are in line with national averages and we have achieved positive value added scores in A Levels (2017) with 45% at A, A or B.*

Governors continue to visit the school on a regular basis and the number of visits to our link subjects has increased. We aim to be part of the school community and a visible presence around the school.

The school has had successful audits of SEN provision, Safeguarding and Financial Competence. A Governor complete a termly check of the Single Central Record (safeguarding requirement).

A significant change for the school for the forthcoming year is the opening of the Devereux Base – a unit for those with ASD or Social Communication Disorder. The small number of students expected in 2018/19 will be part of or community and the Governors will monitor the success of the unit and how the unit effect the main SJBC school.

There has been a high turnover of staff in the last academic year and this September we have a large number of new staff who will give us renewed enthusiasm for providing the very best education for our students.

We continue to meet in committees each term and the Full Governing Body meet once a term to receive the reports from these committees, approve and adopt school policies and review and monitor progress in the school as a whole.

SJBC is a school moving forwards and our aim is to be outstanding in all areas of school life.

The three committees have summarised their work this year below:

ETHOS COMMITTEE

The Governors' Ethos Committee has responsibility for monitoring the quality of the Catholic life of the school and for promoting the educational ethos and approach of St John Bosco. This includes oversight of the Religious Education department and chaplaincy provision along with pastoral care, provision for looked after children, safeguarding, the spiritual, moral and personal development of pupils and issues in relation to pupil behaviour and discipline. The Committee also formulates the school's admissions policy.

In fulfilling these duties in the 2017/18 school year the Committee met with the Head of RE to review her department's 2017 A level and GCSE results and the department's continued work to raise standards. There have been additional meetings in relation to the forthcoming Section 48 inspection scheduled to take place during the school year 2018-19. The school is preparing assiduously for this inspection and there have been positive developments in terms of the Catholic life of the College and Religious Education, the two key aspects of Section 48 reports nationally.

The committee also met with the school chaplain and received a detailed report on the school's chaplaincy provision and the involvement of the pupils in prayer and liturgy. They received detailed Student Council comments and suggestions on what characterised good teaching and facilitated learning, plus a survey of parental comments on the academic and pastoral provision for students throughout the school. In terms of parental involvement the large attendance at the 2018-19 Induction meeting constitutes a significantly positive feature. The school's safeguarding policies and procedures were considered in detail and were deemed to meet DfE requirements.

Detailed statistical reports were received by the Committee so that they could review pupil attendance figures, disciplinary incidents, progress of looked after children, and fixed term and permanent exclusions in the year. It is pleasing to report that the incremental decline in the number of exclusions across the board represents a particularly pleasing feature, reflecting the Catholic and Salesian ethos of the College with its emphasis on a servant leadership style approach with its focus on supporting heard to reach students.

In conclusion the developing interface between St John Bosco College and the Salesian community constitutes a particularly positive characteristic and continues to develop with significant support from several members of the Salesian community in a range of contexts including chaplaincy, ethos, spiritual formation and support for pupils with learning disabilities.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS (ECM) COMMITTEE

The ECM Committee monitors and evaluates the performance of students across all year groups. Both the progress made by the students and the results attained are continuously assessed throughout the academic year and measured against targets set. The school's performance in public examinations of the previous academic year are scrutinised and

compared against targets and teacher predictions to identify areas for improvement and to ensure accuracy of predicted data. The performance of every category of learner is scrutinised: SEND, Pupil Premium, EAL and Children Looked After to ensure that any variations from the mainstream students are identified and addressed where necessary. The Whole School Action Plan (which is annually updated and approved by governors) is used to guide the ECM committee to pay attention to specific areas of focus.

In 2017-2018 the committee paid particular attention to assessment, particularly at KS3. The assessment policy has been refined to ensure that pupils (and their parents) understand their level of attainment and their areas for improvement; a much greater emphasis is placed on regular revision with three cycles of assessment per academic year (i.e. every 11 weeks). There is also an increased focus on progress with the use of standardised progress tests at the beginning and end of Y7 and at the end of Y8. In Y9 the assessments will generate predicted GCSE grades and enable progress to be measured through Y10 and Y11. Overall the system will provide greater transparency as to where pupils are making progress and where their progress is giving cause for concern. The committee has also reviewed the changes to the schools' marking policy where the emphasis has moved from time consuming teacher marking to a focus on class feedback to students on assessed pieces of work which puts a greater emphasis on pupils acting on feedback to improve their learning. In 2017-2018 the committee members have increased their number of visits to school to enable them to meet with the Heads of Department and to observe the quality of teaching and also the behaviour for learning. The Chair of the committee has also met with members of the School Council. Finally the ECM committee have continued to monitor progress against the post OFSTED inspection plan to ensure all identified areas are being addressed.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

This year we decided to split our workload into two with meetings split to focus on Finance and Human Resources.

The key progress measure this past academic year has been the removal of the Financial Notice of Concern imposed by Wandsworth Borough Council. The Governors have supported the School Business Manager in monitoring and reducing the school budget deficit over an agreed 5 year plan. Significant progress was made in reducing the anticipated deficit and Governors are confident that with the projected increase in school roll the overall deficit will be removed by 2021/22.

The school was subject to a detailed financial audit and Governors were pleased that the report was positive.

The Governors again met with the developers (LendLease) to keep up the pressure for the outstanding building issues to be resolved, notably the Heating and Ventilation issues. There has been significant progress with the operational issues of the system but the Governors will not sign off the retained building costs until a full 12 month period has elapsed.

There has been a significant turnover of staff which has been managed well and the Governors are pleased to note that the school is fully staffed for the start of the 2018/19 academic year.

Governors completed a Health and Safety inspection and approved a small number of improvements over the Summer vacation including some planned maintenance of communal areas. We approved the development of the new Devereux Unit with funds provided by Wandsworth Borough Council and new students arrive to that unit in October 2018.

The Resources committee continues to support the Headteacher and all staff in marketing our success to enable pupil numbers to increase and this role will continue.

The Governors Fund (to support students in need) is at a low level but there have been very few requests for funds this year.

The Governors can be contacted via the school office or via ChairofGovernors@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk.

*Jane Hargrave JP
Chair of Governors
September 2018*