

White Hills Park Federation

Chair of Governors Report for 2016/17

This was a positive and rewarding year which saw much change, two Ofsted inspections, the retirement of a school building and the challenge of the new style of GCSEs.

Alderman White and The Bramcote School as well as the Sixth Form at Bramcote College received Good ratings from Ofsted this year. This is testament to both the relentless continuous improvement from the entire teaching team as well as the hard work and commitment shown by the pupils and their parents.

Schools are community enterprises and it takes the dedication and participation of all constituents of that community for them to be successful.

The 2017 exam season saw the first sitting of the new style 1-9 GCSEs in Maths and English. It is of course very hard to benchmark against previous years with different syllabi and grading systems and we don't yet have a true natural picture to compare with.

Results do appear to indicate however that the trend of improvement continues from the past few years. Many subjects seeing a 100% pass rate. Pass rates of 64% English & Maths GCSE and an exceptional 40% for the EBacc at Alderman White gives us confidence that improvements are becoming increasingly embedded across the curriculum. A-level results meant that 85% of our students achieved places at the first-choice universities.

52% English and Maths GCSE pass rate at The Bramcote School shows that there is still work to do but we're seeing evidence that improvement is happening across the year groups. The new leadership team received high praise from the Ofsted inspection team and we are confident that they can and will lead the necessary improvements. Being able to share best practice across our schools and departments will continue to be a key method of achieving that.

Worth noting was the success of our highest attaining pupils. Across the country only 2,000 (0.3%) pupils attained three 9s in Maths and the two English GCSEs. Four of those were from the Federation making our success rate 2%. Seven times the national average. As well, those achieving 9s in each subject were at least double the national averages.

The funding environment for secondary schools is increasingly challenging and we are lucky to have such a skilled and hardworking finance team to ensure we navigate the challenges prudently. They seldom receive sufficient praise for the work they do in conjunction with the leadership team to ensure our schools' viability.

The last day of summer term saw the closing of the The Bramcote School site as it relocated to and became part of Bramcote College. This is an important step on our journey to a completely new set of facilities on the Bramcote College site. Last year was a positive one for this important project with key stakeholders formalising their support. We will keep you updated on progress to delivering what will be a truly 21st century learning environment.

I'm grateful as well to the work of all the governors. They give their time voluntarily to provide challenge and accountability to ensure our schools are properly serving our community. Particular thanks go to Simon Tonks and Wayne Plimmer who both resigned this year after multi-year tenures.

Two key areas of focus this academic year will be supporting the new leadership team at Bramcote College and driving forward the development of the Bramcote College site. This, alongside our continued work to ensure improvements are embedded and continuous and that our communities are fully served.

If you have any questions about the work of the governing body and perhaps how you might be able to contribute please do get in touch.

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