

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2017



FOOTPRINTS

We talk a lot about trying to reduce our negative *footprint* on the planet. There is a positive footprint, however, that we can leave on the earth through the education of our children. This is a journey that we are all part of as teachers, students, parents, governors and STEP Academy Trust.

STEP Academy Trust aligned La Fontaine and Heathfield Academies together under one Strategic Governing Body (SGB) as they faced comparable journeys as newly launched schools, forging unique and values-led paths for their students. This term has seen both schools take some excellent and memorable steps.



In September, Heathfield moved into a brand new school building. It is quite an amazing opportunity to take a blank canvas and gradually fill it with staff, children and achievements. Having to endure two temporary sites in their first and second years of existence, Heathfield Academy leaders and their team have made the transfer to the new site look easy with limited disruption to the children.



Through the support of families and staff, they have set out to become a thriving hub for the South Croydon community. As a Governor who has visited the new site on more than one occasion it is brilliant to see how proud the staff and students are of their new school. It is clear that the team are working together to achieve the best outcome for all students in this *Ofsted* year.



SOME OF HEATHFIELD ACADEMY'S HIGHLIGHTS THIS TERM INCLUDE:

- Excellent Early Years and Year 1 Phonics outcomes for 2016-2017. The results are above the Croydon and National averages.
- Creation of 'Friends of Heathfield' set up by a dedicated group of parents and Mrs Smith who organised the first Christmas Fair, which was attended by the Mayor of Croydon and raised much needed sponsorship.
- Creation of after-school clubs; gymnastics, football, street dance, multi skills and choir [The choir have already performed at a local church!].
- Developing links with neighbours including local Nurseries in order to secure the next generation of students and educate parents about what is happening at Heathfield Academy.

Whilst the school had hoped to be in its new home from September, factors outside its

control meant that it was not possible. Temporary classrooms were set up within the grounds and it has become cosy to say the least! This has not deterred the leadership and staff, however, who continue to make the most of the facilities at their disposal.

With La Fontaine Academy's imminent move, the SGB is seeking an additional associate parent governor to assist with communication between the SGB and parents/carers during this exciting time. This will be a one-year appointment.

If you are interested in taking on the role, please contact me through Lynn Bruce, our Clerk (clerk@stepacademytrust.org) or speak with Dr Chapleau.

SOME OF LA FONTAINE ACADEMY'S HIGHLIGHTS THIS TERM INCLUDE:

- Continuing to be ranked in the top 3% nationally for phonics.
- Maintaining progress towards moving into the new site.
- Christmas productions with Year 3 students performing to local residents at the Bromley Glades shopping Centre.
- Creative curriculum with clear focus on inquisitive and impactful teaching; topics up for debate, for instance, have included:
 - Year 1: Recycling – Impact on the rainforests and oceans if we don't recycle.
 - Year 3: Sports reporting – The representation of Equality and disability in the media.
 - Year 5: Should we be able to travel wherever we want in the world?



These could all be titles for an episode of *Panorama* and illustrate how our children are being equipped with the knowledge and understanding of the issues that face our society.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND FUNDING

Both La Fontaine and Heathfield Academies have year groups that are not fully subscribed, which has significant impact on the national funding that each school receives. As an SGB, we see the arrival of each school in its permanent location as an opportune time to fill these places within the higher year groups.

We will continue to work with the excellent PTAs at both schools to build our reputation and community footprint. As parents and carers, you can help by spreading the word through social media, friends and family that some higher year group spaces remain available in both schools.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The SGB thank all of our families at LFA and HFA for the continued support that you provide to your children and the staff at both schools. On behalf of the SGB, I wish you well for the holiday season and all the best for 2018.

Chris Stevens, Chair of Governors
On behalf of La Fontaine and Heathfield Academy's Strategic Governing Body