

GOVERNING BODY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



In our annual report Governors share with you the achievements of the school, its staff and students. We have had another good year, where we have felt confident enough to invite a number of experts to come in and discuss and challenge us on the progress we are making. This served us well when Ofsted then inspected both our residential service in February and the school in April and found us to be good in both inspections and outstanding in the way we help and protect resident young people.

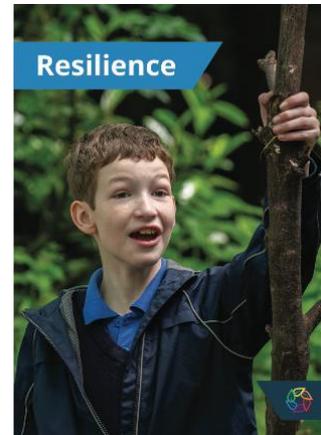
But what drives us on is not so much the evaluation we receive from Ofsted (although that is useful) but the feedback we receive from our parents and students, and this year you have been really generous with your positive views of our school which helps us to look forward and plan confidently. Our students are also represented by George and Lucy who come along to Governors' meetings to tell us what is going well and what can be improved. Acting on their representations we've made a number of changes including to the toilets and school dinners and have provided residential students with their own budget to personalise their space. Our students have been actively involved in the design of the new bathrooms too. So it's a partnership between all of us that we are celebrating at the end of this year!

Student Assessment, Progress and 6th Form

6th Form students have been working with their teachers on creating the space in which they will learn and have been picking up new skills along the way. They have decorated a room in the main building where they meet, plan and take time out. Their design is very striking and impressive, so do take a look if you have time. They are also working on the Gatehouse, upcycling furniture as well. We plan to open a small café there that they can staff, with a hairdressing salon upstairs, and a shop selling products they will make or grow. This will be the beginning of our ambition to share our site with others, bringing our local community in to visit as well as our visits out to meet them.

Our teachers have also begun to develop a folder for each student that provides the evidence of the progress they are making during the year towards their targets. You will begin to see these at their annual reviews, and we hope that they will provide you with the ability to question and understand the progress your child is making.

Governors have continued the discussion with SLT about how we can understand the way students are assessed and then track their progress, and we are now seeing some impressive spider charts for individual students showing where they are on 7 aspects of Words for Living and 8 aspects of Numbers for Life. This will give us a good evidence base on which to gain assurance of the progress that each student is making. Soshana Austin, Steve Forder and Chris Allan have worked closely during the year to achieve all these things and their progress has been impressive too!



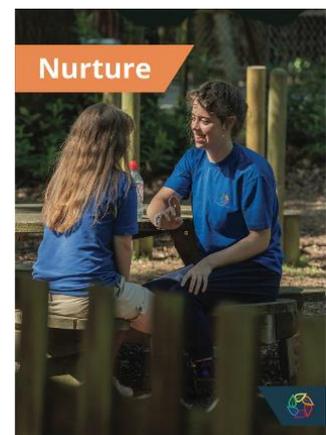
Staff changes

We have welcomed some new faces to our team this year, with Jo Nyland, amongst others joining us last summer in the role of School Business Manager. We have also created three new posts during the year and welcome:

	Matthew Grimwood, Site Assistant
	Imogen Treharne, Occupational Therapy Assistant
	Clare Hollick, assists Chris Prisk with Student Liaison and Inclusion.

But our big news this year has of course been to learn of the retirement of our Principal Nick White after 11 ½ years leading the staff team. We will say goodbye to him at the summer BBQ with very fond memories of his time here and wish him and his family well as they move back to Coulsdon and Nick takes up new pursuits and interests. But first we celebrate Nick's achievements and then for him a long summer holiday in Spain!

Your Governors plan to recruit to the permanent role of Headteacher early in the New Year, using the Autumn Term to review the job role and prepare thoroughly to attract the strongest candidate in the field. We want to be sure that we serve you, our parents, and your children well as we recruit to this very important position. So, we are delighted that Cathryn Falconer and Jacqui Tovey have agreed to join us to job share the interim role until our new Head joins us for the academic year 2019/20. Jacqui and Cathryn have a long history of working successfully together leading a Cooperative Special Needs School in Kent, and are already getting to know our school and its senior team as they prepare for their arrival next term



About the student roll

We have continued to experience a sharp increase in applications for places at Parkwood Hall this year, but are regrettably having to turn away a significant number of requests as we cannot accommodate them within the current class structure. The table below shows the trend since we converted to a Co-operative Academy.

Start of year pupil numbers	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Total	80	86	103	107
Day	61	72	87	89
Boarding	19	14 (all boys)	16 (4 girls, 12 boys)	18 (8 girls 10 boys)

We made parents a promise last year that we would not grow further without a consultation with you on your views. So recently many of you completed a parental survey where some questions asked your opinion on the pupil size of our school. 60% of respondents were happy with the size of the school and its growth, 10% felt the growth had been bad for their child but 30% felt that the growth had been positively good.

During the summer holiday period we have plans to improve the infrastructure of the school to support the growing numbers which will create 8 much improved private bathrooms for our residential students in the main buildings, as well as improving and increasing the number of staff and visitor toilets, and developing more and safer parking spaces in the overflow carpark by providing a hard surface and capacity for lighting there. We were very pleased to give our students the chance to get involved in developing the plans for their private bathrooms which they did with their usual enthusiasm.



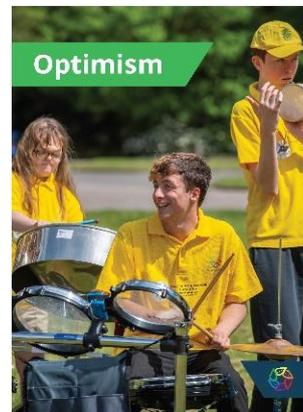
Governors' Plans

Governors have asked John O'Connor of the Schools Cooperative to advise us on developing a strategy for the school that includes further growth as well as using our beautiful site fully and sharing it more widely for public benefit. John met with Governors in June and will report back this month. Meanwhile we have asked Jo Nyland to begin the

work of identifying architects who can help us to assess the potential of our site and buildings and then begin the process of developing a longer-term plan for the growth of the school and/or its activities. We will continue to consult you along the way of this exciting journey.

We have also been fully supportive of Nick in bringing in Nick Hind, a school improvement consultant, to work with the leadership team on how to evidence more strongly the progress that our students make. The new data that we are beginning to receive as a result helps Governors to ask better questions of our Senior Leadership Team when we meet with them. We want to build on and develop this focus with our interim heads and so will continue to buy in the services of the consultant for the next term to support them as they move into leadership here.

We have been pleased to see the development of the extended day and flexible boarding this year and now have 10 students doing after school activities, 5 students on an extended day and 6 students using the flexible boarding offer. We are working with the senior leadership team to develop a proposal to put to staff that should provide greater continuity of staff across the service offer. At our last meeting we agreed a proposal to create more senior teaching assistant posts in our class rooms to provide continuity of teaching when our teachers are out of the classroom. We are confident that this will assist us in seeing our students progress faster in the new academic year in developing and practicing new skills.



Student Leavers



This year we have 8 students who fund raised hard and enjoyed their prom night at the Dartford Conservative Club a couple of weeks ago. We thank them all (Brittany, Leon, Hector, Rianne, Oke, Natalie, Jake and Vasif) for their contribution to the school, wish them well in their future plans and hope that they will stay in touch with us. Their destinations are in the table below:

Onward destinations	Numbers
Local College	3
Residential College	2
Unconfirmed	1
Alternative school	2

Another active year

Our students have been busy getting out and about in the local community and wider abroad again this year. Here are some of the activities they have got involved with:

- Disneyland Paris residential trip
- Winning Jack Petchey awards
- Winning an award in the Swanley District Council "Just Bin it!" Poster competition
- Numerous Steel Band trips
- Step Into Dance
- Shakespeare School Festival
- Classical Spectacular
- South London Special League (SLSL) Football
- Panathlon



Mayor presenting 'Just Bin It' Prize



Disney

Your Governing Body

Parents have four governors representing them on the Governing Body:

Name	Status	Term of office expires
 Richard Allalouf	Parent Governor	24/04/2021
 Soshana Austin	Parent Governor and Chair of Curriculum and Strategy Committee	30/06/2019
 Simon Blackburn	Parent Governor	31/10/2018
 Steve Finch	Parent Governor	21/06/2021

Please let them know about your concerns and priorities so that they can represent you effectively. You can contact them through Linda Marsella at the school. If you are interested in exploring what is involved in becoming a Governor, or in getting more involved in the life of the school please get in touch with our Chairperson, Libby Blake at chair@parkwoodhall.co.uk. She will be delighted to hear from you!

Other members of the Governing Body are as follows:

Name	Status	Term of Office expires
 Abidemi Agidee-Adekunle	Community Governor	23/11/2020
 Libby Blake	Community Governor and Chair of Governors	02/02/2020
 Barbara McBrien	Community Governor	29/06/2020
 Kola Olounbanjo	Community Governor	05/01/2019
 Katherine Priestley	Community Governor	21/06/2021
 Isobel Ros Lopez	Community Governor	18/10/2021
 Bob Walkington	Community Governor and Chair of Finance and General Purpose Committee	05/01/2019
Vacant position	Community Governor	
 Nick White	Principal	31/08/2018
 Kirsty Wiseman	Staff Governor	31/10/2018
 Elisa Valdez	Staff Governor	18/10/2021

We said goodbye to Chris Bray this year, who stood down as a Community Governor, and so we are looking for a teacher with special needs experience to replace him. If you know of someone who shares our cooperative values and has this experience, please encourage them to get in touch with Libby to discuss the opportunity. Being a Governor comes with the opportunity to gain new skills, access training and get experience of strategic leadership at Board level, as well as to contribute to a thriving community committed to making a positive impact of the lives of our students and their families.

We welcomed Isa Ros Lopez onto our Governing Body this year. Isa comes with many years' experience of working with adults living with a disability and has a specialist interest in communication. Non-Teaching Staff elected Elisa Valdez to be their Governor, and she has thrown herself into this challenge with great enthusiasm and energy and is representing her colleagues as well as students strongly. It's great to have a group of people with so many different skills on our Governing Body.



In November 2017 Kola Olounbanjo stood down as co-chair but Libby Blake remains as Chair of Governors. Bob Walkington agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair in addition to being the Chair of the Finance and General Purpose Committee. Soshana Austin remains as Chair of the Curriculum Committee. It is a strength of our Governors that we have both the stability of long term friends on our Board as well as newcomers with different skills and experience adding value. We're excited about the future and proud of the achievements of this wonderful school. And above all we are grateful to Nick White for his leadership through some very difficult as well as good times and at his retirement for leaving us in such a strong position.

We wish you all an enjoyable summer break, wish out leavers well and look forward to welcoming new and old students when the Autumn Term begins.

Libby Blake
Chair of Governors
on behalf of the Governors of Parkwood Hall