



A LETTER FROM LGC TO STAFF, PARENTS AND CARERS OF ASHLEY SCHOOL

Wednesday 18th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write on behalf of the Local Governing Committee (LGC) to share some of the key areas of development and initiatives that the LGC are focusing on as we plan for the Spring term 2020. The LGC know that this has been a very challenging term for the Ashley community and we are grateful to parents for your continued support as we work with our Good Shepherd Trust (GST) colleagues and the Ashley staff to stabilise the school and improve the education for all the children in our care.

New Leadership Arrangements for the Spring Term

Parents will already be aware that Mr Alex Clark has been appointed as interim Headteacher of Ashley for next term. Early in 2020, the GST and the LGC will begin the recruitment for a new permanent headteacher for the school. With Mrs Stevens moving back into her Deputy Head role and Mr Clark joining the school as full-time interim headteacher in January, we are pleased that Ashley will have a strengthened leadership team to take the school forward.

Mr Clark has 19 years' experience of headship in three different schools, the most recent being a large four-form entry primary school in Sutton, moving both this and his previous school from Ofsted 'Good' to 'Outstanding'. As a National Leader of Education (NLE), he also provided support to several schools in other areas of the country either as a consultant headteacher or as an interim executive head, whilst remaining as head at Avenue Primary Academy in Sutton.

We are delighted that Mr Clark has decided to focus on school leadership and school improvement at Ashley and we know that he is very keen to engage with the school community and get to know the staff, children and parents as quickly as possible next term.

The Trust will begin a formal recruitment process for a substantive headteacher early next term. The recruitment process can take several months, and we anticipate that we will have our permanent headteacher in post from September 2020.

School Improvement Support and Challenge

The 2019 Key Stage 2 results for the school, as predicted by the SLT and LGC, were disappointing and outcomes for the pupils from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 were not as expected. In response to this, in October, the GST Board served the school with a 'Notice to Improve'. This is a normal procedure within the GST when there are concerns about a decline in pupil attainment.

A School Improvement and Intervention Board (SIIB) will now support the school leadership team. The SIIB includes Mrs Stevens, representatives of the LGC and GST school improvement advisers. Mr Clark will join it next month when he takes up his appointment as Interim Headteacher.

The SIIB has already met twice in the autumn term; the school staff has been informed of the SIIB's work. The LGC have been fully supportive of the Senior Leadership Team as they have responded to this drop in pupil progress. Mr Clark and Mrs Stevens will be working closely with the school leadership team and the LGC with a focus on addressing the issues and ensuring that all children at Ashley have the best possible outcomes.



The Good Shepherd Trust (GST) - Annual report

The Trust's annual report is published every year as part of its annual accounts. The annual accounts have been published today and can be downloaded at: <http://www.goodshepherdtrust.org.uk/1035/financial-reporting>

It is a comprehensive report showing financial and other information about the Trust. There can also be found, on pages 11 to 14, some comparative performance data about the teaching and learning outcomes for pupils in each of the Trust's sixteen schools. A glossary is attached to aid in the understanding of the terminology used in the tables on pages 13 and 14.

The launch of the Ashley Parent Partnership

For some time now the LGC has been thinking about how we can improve the partnership with Ashley parents so all of them feel part of the school community and work together to improve the education for all children.

As part of this initiative, the LGC have decided to create the 'Ashley Parent Partnership' with the intention of enhancing the good relationships that the school already has with existing and prospective parents.

The purpose of the Ashley Parent Partnership is to:

- Establish trust between the staff, the LGC members and parents/carers
- Fulfil legal requirements to consult parents on specific changes to school policy
- Shape school ethos, vision and strategy with parent stakeholders in mind
- Stay accountable to the wider community
- Gain insight into the issues faced by parents and pupils that might otherwise go unnoticed
- Expand the parental perspective within the LGC beyond that of the parent governors
- Deliver effective parental engagement to fulfil Ofsted's Inspection Framework requirements and canvass opinions for school improvement

We will be holding some briefing sessions next term and would encourage all parents to attend to find out more.

Finally, as the term comes to an end, I would like to encourage you to reflect and consider the Ashley motto "***Together we live, love and learn in Harmony***". The LGC seeks to carry that motto into all we do, say and write in the New Year.

May your Christmas be filled with joy and the New Year be a happy one for all your family.

Yours faithfully,

Nigel Stapleton

On behalf of the Ashley Local Governing Committee (LGC)

Glossary

GLD = EYFS (Good Level of Development)

ARE = Age Related Expectations

GD = Greater Depth

EPGS = English, punctuation, grammar and spelling

RWM= combined reading, writing and maths

Copied to all members of the Ashley school staff