



Tuesday 14th December 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

In November, we re-started work to set up a local governing body (LGB) for Thomas Whitehead. I'm pleased to confirm the following people are on the Board:

- Carole Bennett, Trust Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Carole Brooks
- Caroline Chandler, Parent Governor
- Father Diego
- Jenny Jenkins, Interim Chair of Governors & Trust Director
- Soheila Mathison, Head Teacher
- Fay Prattley, Parent Governor
- Daniel Roderick, Staff Governor
- Janet Steele

Post Ofsted – what next?

Our roles as Governors are to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for Thomas Whitehead; hold the Head Teacher and senior leadership team to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

We had our first LGB meeting on 1st December, where we discussed the Post Ofsted Action plan and the immediate priorities for the Spring term – which include implementing a whole school curriculum, making improvements in reading, achieving progress for special educational needs (SEND) pupils, and establishing the 2021 teaching framework for our Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS) children.

We also looked at the school's budget and spend to date for this year, and two governors agreed to become specialist 'link' governors, one focussed on safeguarding and the other on SEND provision. The LGB will be meeting every half of term to monitor progress against the Action plan. Ofsted has a copy of our Action plan, and inspectors are likely to visit the school again in the next 18 months.

How will we know that progress is being made?

Mrs Mathison and the senior leadership team will be providing update reports at each Board meeting. The LGB will also receive evaluation reports from the Trust Education Director, and from an independent education professional (known as a School Improvement Partner) from Central Beds Council, both of whom are visiting the school regularly.

Every term, Governors will also be visiting during the school day during a 'Governor Visit week', where we will sit in classrooms, talk to pupils and staff, and look at the impact of parts of the Action plan. We'll also check on safeguarding, behaviour, and health and safety. We will tell you at the end of each term what we've found.



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MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Thomas Whitehead CE Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs S Mathison

Assistant Headteacher: Mr D Roderick

Assistant Headteacher: Miss D Mitra

How is the Trust helping Thomas Whitehead?

The Trust Education Director is providing regular support on education provision, providing guidance and evaluating progress. The Trust CEO and another Trust Director are members of our LGB, giving advice and support on staffing, finance and governance. The Trust central team has helped us with an IT review, and is also helping us to recruit a permanent Head Teacher.

We value your feedback.

Mrs Mathison is organising a Parent Forum to start next term, which will discuss ideas and comments from parents and carers. The Governors will be regularly reviewing feedback from this Forum. To contact the governing board, please send your email (marked for the attention of the Chair of Governors) to office@twa.dsamat.co.uk

Thank you to all our new Governors, who are freely giving their time as volunteers to help current and future generations of children at Thomas Whitehead. This term, we want to say a particularly big thank you to all the staff for their ongoing hard work and commitment. With the continuing impact of COVID, and the changes that have happened since the Ofsted inspection this term, we recognise it has been a particularly stressful time. Finally, our thanks to you, our parents and carers, for supporting your children in their reading – we hope you can find time this holiday to keep this up.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Jenny Jenkins

Interim Chair of Governors



Believing and achieving together