



STATIONERS' CROWN WOODS ACADEMY



REPORT OF THE STATIONERS' GOVERNORS – Autumn Term 2017

1. The Term

The term started in a rather dramatic way with new timetabling causing a few logistic problems which was quickly resolved. The academy has now started a radical new way of operating with Years 7 and 8 learning as before in 3 separate schools only leaving their buildings for specialist subjects and games. From Year 9 each subject is streamed cross academy by subject, irrespective of school and this is designed to offer a greater focus on ability and improve subject teaching under new senior subject leadership.

SCWA hosted 2,500 potential parents and students in September for Open Evenings to find out more about us and we are expecting record applications for Year 7 entry in September, a great tribute to the staff and also to the students who spoke so well about life at the academy during the evenings.

During the summer break the entire SCWA IT systems were replaced and the performance of devices is hugely improved as a result to the benefit of all. Year 9 and 10 students have enthusiastically taken up the opportunity to purchase Chromebooks on favourable terms and no child will miss out on this opportunity irrespective of their ability to pay for the equipment. This scheme will be rolled out to all students in due course.

On 10 November the academy held a moving Remembrance Service which was put together by the students. Next year it will be attended by our own Royal Marine Cadet CCF unit which is being formed during the year and the staff leading it are already receiving training. There is considerable interest amongst the students in this and a 'Taster Afternoon' is planned in January. The support of our friends at the RN Charity, the Greenwich Hospital, cannot be overstressed in making this opportunity for our students possible.

The Stationers' Company hosted a glittering Prize Evening for us at Stationers' Hall on 20 November in the presence of The Master and the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Liveryman Simon Heffer made an outstanding motivational address to the students which was greatly appreciated by all present. Prizes were awarded for both academic, sporting and personal achievement, all sponsored by the Company. Without a doubt, the most moving of these was the Shea French-Gibbens Award for Fortitude. Shea was an Arden student of immense ability and promise who sadly finally succumbed to a terminal illness weeks before the end of the Summer Term.

Past Master James Benn's moving piece on his time as a mentor with Shea is published on the Company web site and is wonderful tribute to a fine young man. The presentation was made by Shea's parents Michael and Viv. In addition, one of the Drama Suites in the Crown Building will be named after this remarkable young man.

2. Mentoring

Sir Jeremy Elwes reports: The Autumn term started under a new Academy co-ordinator with a meeting of mentors for briefing and an opportunity to meet their mentees. The majority of the 29 potential mentors were present (18 of whom are new volunteers). In most cases the first mentoring session dates were arranged and successfully completed during the term. A new system has been introduced that has greatly improved the ability of mentors and mentees to communicate while still maintaining the necessary child protection assurances.

3. Governance

We welcomed two new governors to the Board this term. Sharon Hague, who is nominated by the Company and an Associate Liveryman nominated by her employer Pearson Education where she is a Senior Vice President responsible for developing their suite of educational qualifications. Sharon was originally a geography teacher and her professional background will be invaluable to the board. We also welcomed Joe Thomas who is also a maths teacher and is the elected staff governor.

The Small School Committees have been disbanded as a result of the new educational cross academy structure described above and will be replaced by a new parent body and regular information meetings for parents. Also, governors will trial a one day school inspection this coming term when they will meet staff and students and observe lessons. In addition, the Stationer governors have each taken one of the four key Ofsted measurement topics and will meet termly with senior staff responsible to monitor progress against the Module Review.

SCWA is the lead academy in the LAT SE London Cluster which comprises Eastcote Primary School in Welling, the new Leigh Academy Blackheath opening in September with our good friend and colleague Emma Smith now formally appointed as Principal and Corelli College in Kidbrooke, to be renamed The Halley Academy, when it joins the Trust hopefully on 1 February. This academy will be sponsored by the Tallow Chandlers' Company.

SCWA is in a strong position to improve its outcomes for students in the summer examinations and the focus on this is palpable throughout the academy.

As ever we are grateful for the support we receive from the Company and Foundation for our work.

Kevin Dewey
Trevor Fenwick
7 January 2018

Sue Pandit
Sharon Hague