

# REPORT OF THE STATIONERS' GOVERNORS – Summer Term 2017

## 1. The Results

The Summer Term is inevitably dominated by the national examinations of GCSE and A Levels, which in the former case are starting a radical transformation this year with course work being eliminated from marking and a new harder curriculum being examined formally.

We were delighted with the A Level results, where direct comparisons can still be made, with the previous year, 99% of students achieving the pass grades (2016 - 98%) and 77% achieving A\* to C grades (2016 - 70%). Indications are that all our students seeking university entry have secured their places on chosen courses. Demand for places in our 6<sup>th</sup> Form school, Arden, are at record levels, which is a clear indication of the successes of our students and the teaching staff.

The GCSE results are still to be fully digested and the radical changes mentioned above make year on year comparisons invidious. There were some remarkable individual performances, the most notable of which was 16 year old Josh Baker who having secured Maths GCSE at A\* when he was 13, gained 10 GCSE passes at the top marks of 9 and A\* across a complete range of subjects and just for good measure added A\* A Level Maths and Further Maths to his tally! He will be joining Arden in September.

There were some excellent performances in English, RE, Sociology, Science and Spanish and improvements in subjects that were in our strategic priorities like Catering, Graphics, Product Design and Geography. Contrastingly, there have been some inexplicable apparent drops in subjects like Art, History, Drama and Music.

The results below are preliminary and are subject to scrutiny where the staff feel a remarking is appropriate. We believe there may be a number of papers that we would like remarked.

<u>Grades achieved</u>	<u>% of students sitting exams</u>		
	English	Maths	Combined
9 to 7	23.4%	11.0%	8.0%
9 to 5	61.0%	37.0%	34.0%
9 to 4	73.2%	65.1%	59.0%

NB Grades 9 to 7 approximate to the former A\*/A grades, 9 to 5 = A\* to C+ (good pass) and 9 to 4 = A\* to C- (pass)

## 2. The Term

An innovation this year was Finance Fortnight for Key Stage 3 students who were supplied with pretend money and could earn more by doing community tasks and demonstrating Academy core values. Financed by The Stationers' Foundation the objective was to help students understand the importance of managing money. They had opportunities to invest in cars, shares and savings and review the outcomes. They could borrow and learn about interest debt and risk. Lessons in all subject

areas covered linked topics from the history of the Bank of England to causes of poverty and World currencies.

The Term ended with Graduation ceremonies that were greatly enjoyed, a Sport Fest, attended by the Master and a dynamic performance of 'High School Musical'. All the activities at SCWA are recorded in an excellent newsletter which is available on the academy website.

### **3. Ofsted Inspection**

After 8 years, we finally received our long planned for Ofsted inspection in early July. As a rated 'Good' school we received a limited inspection over one day by two inspectors. It was not surprising that we received validation that we were still 'Good' with many positive comments about our students and staff. Still some work to do to achieve the 'Outstanding' accolade but we at least know we are heading in the right direction.

The report, a full copy of which is available on the SCWA web site recorded that in 2016 SCWA was above the national average of attainment in English and Maths. The report recognised how the small school model has been developed and strengthened since the last inspection. However, students told the inspectors that they wanted more opportunities to collaborate with students in other schools. Inspectors noted that this had already been identified as a priority with the senior team who had 'responded decisively' to develop a balance between the strengths of the small-school model and recognising pupils' sense of belonging to the whole Academy.

Inspectors commented on the strong theme of collaboration in the leadership style which had helped develop and refine the Academy's vision and values and create 'drive teams' of staff for further improvement. The inspectors noted that 'the capacity of leadership to further improve is strong'.

### **4. Industry Links**

Jani Levänen reports: "We will continue working with school in the autumn and support the career events school organises. We have strong support from Stationers members, and many are keen to help the program. We are looking new ways to make the career talks even more engaging and lined with the curriculum.

### **5. Mentoring**

Sir Jeremy Elwes reports: "The mentoring scheme for 2016/2017, with 22 mentors taking part, went well despite some administrative problems. The Academy side of the operation for 2017/2018 is being taken over by Norman Doyle the Head of Arden. Recruitment of mentors is underway and to date there are 26 confirmed, 14 of whom are new volunteers.

A meeting of all mentors is planned for September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Academy at which new mentors will be briefed and the necessary documentation will be prepared. It is also hoped to match mentors with mentees on that occasion".

## 6. Digital Media Centre

The long haul to get the DMG up and running formally ended on 5 May where in the presence of the Master, Sir Geoffrey Leigh (the founder of our educational partner Leigh Academies Trust), the Mayor of Royal Borough of Greenwich, the magnificent Centre was opened by Amali de Alwis, Chief Executive of Code First, the winner of the Women in IT award. Much has been reported on this but once again our thanks to Sue Pandit and Emma Smith, who drove the project and of course the ever present and supportive LAT, who without their drive to make this happen through the labyrinth of the PFI contract and release the of IT refresh funds to top up the Stationers' Foundation donations, we may never have reached this happy day.

## 7. Royal Marine Cadet Force

There has been a delay due to administrative problems at the MoD and we now expect to open our Royal Marine Cadet unit in September 2018. This will give us plenty of time to recruit our lead NCO and train our civilian instructors and also to do the work necessary to convert a building in the NE corner of the site to the CCF HQ. Our partners and generous benefactors, Greenwich Hospital are aware and supportive of this situation.

We are looking forward to the coming year but very sad that one of our founding Stationer Governor's, Kit van Tulleken, will be retiring by rotation at the end of August. Kit has been a tower of strength to our work and has been responsible for Safeguarding and has Chaired our highly successful Arden school committee. She will be greatly missed but has recruited a wonderful successor, Sharon Hague.

Sharon is an Associate Liverymen being a SVP of Corporate member Pearson Education plc, where she is responsible on the main Board for the Qualification Services business, which develops and delivers qualifications and assessments including UK GCSE, BTEC qualifications and Pearson apprenticeships. Sharon is a former teacher and has been active in the promotion of women to the boards of FTSE 100 companies. We are delighted to welcome Sharon to SCWA and the Company and greatly look forward to her contribution.

As always, we are grateful for the huge support the Company gives to our work.

Kevin Dewey

Sue Pandit

Trevor Fenwick

Kit van Tulleken

26 August 2017