



STATIONERS' CROWN WOODS ACADEMY



REPORT OF THE STATIONERS' GOVERNORS – Spring Term 2018

1. The Term

The Spring Term is always the busiest academically as the academy prepares for the public examinations in the summer and this term was no exception. If diligence is the measure of success, the staff at SCWA will be steering their students to outstanding success this summer! The focus is relentless with teachers offering out of hours, including weekend and holiday coaching sessions to help tip the scales to at least the next grade up. It is worthy of note that the teaching staff are also grappling with the introduction this year of the majority of reformed GCSEs and A levels. We wish all our students every success in their endeavours.

A Stationers' Foundation part sponsored programme called Humanutopia started this term. Its aim is to help children make positive changes to their lives and improve life experiences. Lack of self-esteem is a common issue for young people and the coaching programme helps to unlock this awful barrier to achievement. Years 7 and 9 are initially involved and the programme then cascades to other years by volunteer 'Heroes' being trained to spread the learning. This only started at the beginning of March, but the early signs are very promising. More will follow on this as the programme evolves.

On March 9 the Academy President, Simba Nyakupinda, addressed the Livery Spring Lunch at Stationers' Hall, with a brilliantly crafted 'state of the nation' address on the academy and his journey hopefully to a degree in Biomedical Science at Surrey University. He thanked the Company warmly for our support of SCWA. Little wonder that he received a full and warm standing ovation for his words.

With some delight we report that the CCF Royal Marine unit has started training its first cohort of recruits who have been chosen for their potential leadership qualities. The unit will be officially launched on 13 September and the Commandant General of the Royal Marines has accepted our invitation to perform the ceremony. We shall have 30 members of the unit initially rising to 90 as instructors are trained and funding found.

To replace the Small School Committees, a Parents Forum has been started and has already met twice this term. This is planned to be a major conduit of information between parents and carers and staff and the initial signs are very encouraging that this rather old-fashioned form of communication is appreciated by both sides! In addition, a Friends of SCWA group is being formed to support the academy with time, talent and funds for special projects.

Next September our Year 7 and 8 students will study using the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme which offers a broader subject choice and flexibility of learning

before the students tackle GCSE courses. The Trust has good experience of embedding this as 3 academies are already running this programme, so we can confidently expect this to be a success amongst our Key Stage 3 learners.

2. Mentoring

We currently have 28 mentors available and are using 22, in addition there are 17 new volunteers for the 2018/19 academic year. This is very encouraging and now the academy has a hold on the management process of this valuable activity they will be seeking to match more mentees with these generous volunteers.

3. Governance

An innovation at our governors' meeting this term was an academy immersion programme where we spent the morning prior to the meeting visiting areas of the academy listening and speaking with the leaders, teachers and students in different areas. Special Educational Needs, safeguarding, finance, an innovative coaching programme and many of the subject areas gave presentations and answered governors' questions. The sessions were impressively run and both governors and staff benefitted from the experience, which will be repeated.

New financial constraints continue to test the desire of the Board and leadership to operate as we would wish, not least to recruit and retain high-calibre staff. The Trust is however working hard to develop programmes to develop professionally the best talent to enable them to progress at a pace that meets their ambitions. Whilst we face new challenges next year we expect to reach our financial targets for the current year.

Corelli College has now joined LAT and our SE London Cluster and has been renamed Halley Academy.

Finally, at a recent meeting of the LAT Board the Stationers' nomination for Sue Pandit to replace Kevin Dewey as Chair of Governors in September was approved. Both Kevin and Trevor Fenwick will be retiring by rotation and the Education Committee is seeking two new governors to replace them. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in finding out more about the role.

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

Kevin Dewey
Trevor Fenwick

Sue Pandit
Sharon Hague

4 April 2018