



Report from the Governors

1H Autumn term 2023

The governors have been busy this half term. We have already held a full governing body meeting, a School Development and Pupils committee meeting and a Resources committee meeting. We also had a breakfast meeting to introduce ourselves to the new members of the staff team.

The first governing body meeting of the term sets the way the governing body will operate during the year. We review probably the most important school policy, our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, amongst other policies. Once approved, we put some of the most relevant policies for parents onto the school website. We also review the school's performance figures and were delighted with the school's value-added figures. These excellent results are a testament to the hard work of Frances, the headship team and all staff members and demonstrate our high expectations for pupils at The Vineyard. The school's results exceeded both national and local comparisons and I know that the school has already shared these results with you. See the link [here](#) if you missed them.

The Resources committee is trialling asking for an annual (or termly) donation to cover our trip and educational visits programme, as suggested by you in the parent survey. We hope that this will reduce the number of requests for funds that you get and the constant administrative work. We are collecting this money by year group and, unfortunately, we will be unable to run our full trip programme for the year group if we do not receive sufficient donations. We know that our pupils particularly enjoy these experiential learning sessions but we cannot run them without donations.

All Richmond maintained schools have a school improvement partner, an experienced school professional who gives independent advice to a number of schools. Our new school improvement partner, Chris Chen, gave a presentation to the School Development and Pupils committee last week. We are excited to be supported by Chris and the additional insights and challenge that she will give us. Chris has already been in school to look at our maths and reading teaching this term and reported back very favourably on the teaching and learning, as well as behaviour, she observed.

We do hope that your children have settled well into their new classes and we hope that they, and you, enjoy the half-term break.