

## Autumn News Article

As with any new academic year, there are various changes in personnel and 2023/24 has been no exception with regard to additional members of staff joining the school or starting new roles within the structure. We have also seen changes within our Local Governing Body and have welcomed new governors to join us this year; details of which are on our website.

We were delighted to hear that the school achieved excellent results in their KS1 Phonics Screening Check placing it in the top 3% of the national tables and within the national top 2% with regard to Year 6 KS2 SATs tests. Both sets of results were acknowledged by Damian Hinds, the Minister for Schools, who congratulated Middleton on their high standard of performance.

In our roles as Faculty Governors, we met with our respective senior staff leads during the autumn term to discuss the direction of travel for the forthcoming year. Following the outstanding Ofsted rating achieved at the end of 2022/23, it was interesting to note areas of the curriculum in which the school was striving for further improvement and to build upon their recent achievements. At our first faculty curriculum meetings we discussed the performance at the end of last year and recommendations that Ofsted made following their assessment during the summer term. We then went on to discuss the priorities and objectives for this year and we would like to share some of our observations with you.

Following excellent test results, the Faculty Governor noted that emphasis in maths this year is around fluency. A rapid recall of established knowledge and learning from any mistakes are perceived to be opportunities to acquire and embed knowledge. This was also found to be the main theme with regard to science which has seen a new curriculum introduced that will be closely monitored to ensure the technology and facilities are first class.

With regard to Creative Performance, there was a range of different opportunities for pupils to develop and showcase their skills and experiences. These included Foundation's Nativity stage production and the school choir singing with the MK Sinfonia in their production of The Snowman. The Faculty Governor stated that pupils were able to explore and participate in a new experience. By doing so alongside an orchestra and combining a live performance with digital animation, it enriched their cultural capital experience which otherwise was limited to those outside of the school environment. The priorities for the year were to develop the breadth and depth of opportunities in the Performing Arts including a broader range of musical genres and those that represented the local community.

In the Languages Faculty, the emphasis remained that of a consistent approach with regard to the delivery of Phonics in order to maintain the high standard of achievement the school expects. In relation to Writing, a number of areas were highlighted in which it was felt further enhancements could be introduced in order to

make it a better fit with the rest of the curriculum. The range of reading material used in each year group is now determined by the Subject Lead, thus ensuring consistency in approach and continuity as the pupils make progress along their literary journeys.

As the French curriculum received very favourable feedback from Ofsted, the impetus remains that of continuing to strive for a higher ratio of pupils reaching a good standard in the spoken language by the end of the year. Positive feedback was received at a lively debate during a Pupil Voice session in which representatives from year groups were able to comment on the content of this subject. The Faculty Governor is looking forward to hearing more about the Parisian Project which is being designed to support the forthcoming French trip.

We were pleased to note that there is a high demand for participation in a range of co-curricular activities from the sedate chess to energetic dance and football clubs. To support all aspects of English, creative writing competitions, reading clubs and various events are advertised and pupils are encouraged to participate. Another language provided at co-curricular clubs as part of the school's emphasis on cultural capital include Turkish for which there is considerable take up.

As in other years, the opportunity to participate in events held in the school and to accompany pupils on external school trips gives insight into aspects of the curriculum for governors and parents/carers who are able to do so. It also provides an opportunity for governors to follow the progress of our linked year groups to see how pupils have developed skills since we last met. So far this year we have been transported back in time to the Roman and Egyptian eras before arriving back in England during the time of the Great Fire of London. Each themed event provided hands on experience with enactments, drama, handicrafts, dance and music as well as historical knowledge of the period,

We will continue to support the school and monitor performance for the remainder of the year and look forward to hearing about the progress made and achievements accomplished for 2023/24.

Barbara Bushell