

News Article

2023/4 was another busy year at the school in which the Local Board of Governors supported the Senior Leadership Team in dealing with the challenges they faced and accomplishing the objectives they had set.

Faculty Governors met with our respective Senior Staff Leads again last term to find out how performance had fared over the course of the year, any adjustments made in order to improve upon anticipated shortfalls and the results of such. We also touched upon expectations for KS1 and KS2 SATs results and are now pleased to note the excellent above national average achievements across the range of subjects. We appreciate the hard work and commitment made by teaching staff that continued throughout the year and enabled pupils to reach their full potential.

With regard to the Creative Faculty; it was pleasing to note that the number of sporting and musical events available and participated in had increased considerably with 83% of KS2 pupils having represented the school in competitive games that year. We recognised the commitment from the specialist PE/Games and Music teachers that was required in order to achieve those results, supported of course by their teaching colleagues.

We thanked Mr Beaumont for his hard work and success whilst here at Middleton and wished him well for the future as he was about to embark on a role at a new school in Bedfordshire in September. We look forward to hearing about further successes on the pitches and courts as we welcomed Middleton's new PE coach to the staffing team this year.

More opportunities in Music have also been available with the introduction of a school orchestra and the continuing development of dance with progress made in this area. Pupils were very positive about creative subjects in their discussions at a Pupil Voice session and would like the availability of further opportunities should this be possible. This is an area that the Senior Leadership Team will no doubt be considering this year.

During the Language Faculty meeting, it was evident that consistency across the school had been achieved with regard to Reading and Writing following enhancements made to the delivery of the subjects. It also enabled pupils to use creative thought in order to demonstrate flair within their work and last year saw a higher number of pupils from across the school entering literacy competitions with excellent results. In the poetry field, KS1 and KS2 had 52 entries approved for publishing and there were also 59 entries selected across the school in the prose section. We were pleased to note that comments made following a School Inspector's visit were very complimentary regarding delivery of the English curriculum. The report highlighted the robust teaching of Phonics, promoting a love of Reading and Writing and the provision of expert teaching in this field.

Last year's trip to France was another successful event with a residential location chosen nearer to Calais in order to reduce the amount of time spent on the journey and therefore provide a longer duration. Pupils were given every opportunity to practice the spoken language and were allowed a set amount of Euros to purchase personal items and encouraged to use their linguistic skills in doing so.

As governors, we are pleased to be invited to accompany year groups on external visits and follow the progress pupils have made as they travel through their educational journey. Last year a new museum was added to the list of quality Cultural Capital establishments; namely the Black Country Living Museum which fully delivered upon expectations. Within a reasonable travelling distance for Year 2 pupils, once there we had ample time to learn about life during the Victorian period whilst sampling the majority of attractions it had to offer. The colliery and descent down a mine shaft was not, however, one for our consideration. Spread over the size of several football pitches, it really felt as though we had stepped back in time and found ourselves in a community of the era. The tour guides, suitably dressed in period costumes, took us around the site which included a row of fully furnished terraced houses, shops and a school in which pupils could experience a flavour of life during those times. They particularly enjoyed the interactive schoolroom session and comparing tools and equipment of yester year with the gadgets of today.

After a much deserved summer break, pupils and teaching staff have commenced another academic year and we will continue to support the school as it strives for the same high standard of delivery in 2024/25.

Barbara Bushell

Autumn 2024