



Governors' Newsletter July 2024

As another very busy academic year nears the end, the governors applaud and thank the hard work and dedication of all the staff, students, parents and carers for their commitment to the values and ethos of Allerton Grange School. A huge thank you!

Once again, the governors have been proactive this year. As well as attending a variety of school activities, meetings have taken place with senior and middle leaders across the key stages, curriculum areas and various departments. As Chair of Governors, weekly meetings with Mike Roper, Headteacher and Andy Norrington, Associate Headteacher have continued to take place which allows the governing body to be kept informed of all developments including external reviews, extracurricular activities, and planning for the next academic year.

The wonderful Culture Day organised and led by the sixth form students in the Spring Term was a perfect example of the inclusivity, diversity and celebration of the Allerton Grange Community. The 'Our House' performance was outstanding; the many school trips, overseas and in the UK, have provided fantastic learning opportunities and new experiences for our students; as well as the introduction of the enrichment programme which 100% of our students participate in. Dan Carver, Co-opted Governor, and I had the pleasure of judging the Year 7 and 8 Public Speaking competition on 11/12 July. The standard was exceptionally high with students demonstrating such confidence. To also experience the school orchestra playing some of the music that they will be performing during the forthcoming tour of France, as the panel of judges were deliberating over the winners and runners up, was absolutely mind blowing! The talents of our students and staff is something that fills me with pride. I feel extremely lucky to have the privilege of being the Chair of Governors at this wonderful school.

It is vital that the governing body keep themselves updated and informed about the national educational landscape. It is also important that they keep themselves abreast of the potential threats and opportunities available to their school moving forward. As such, over the past 12 months the governing body of Allerton Grange has been committed to conducting robust research into the benefits and costs of academisation and joining a Multi-Academy Trust. This research project has now concluded and the governors have made a unanimous decision to pause this exploratory work for the reasons outlined below, whilst continuing to monitor the national and local picture:

- Our priority for 2024/25 is to ensure that we appoint our new Headteacher who will take up his/her position in September 2025.
- We have a new Secretary of State for Education and thus will monitor any future decisions/announcements regarding academisation.
- Having been informed by the DfE that we can only join a Trust that currently has secondary schools in Leeds, we strongly believe that we need to be able to choose a Trust that aligns with the ethos, culture and vision of AGS. It is in our best interests to remain an LEA school. The DfE cannot direct AGS as a 'Good' school to become an academy as things currently stand.
- The governors will not rush this decision because we want to ensure that our actions will only be in the best interests of the whole school.

On a personal note, it was a pleasure to meet our newly appointed Head Students who will add a new dimension to not only the work that takes place post 16 but their involvement with KS3 and KS4 students.



The Governors at Allerton Grange would like to wish you all a pleasant summer and look forward to continuing our work in the new school year. We would also like to thank the staff and students who will be leaving us to embark upon pastures new and send them our best wishes.

Barbara Trayer
Chair of Governors