

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2021

TERMLY REVIEW

Welcome on behalf of the Governors to new families, staff and stakeholders who have joined the Viridis Federation this year. We hope that your time with us will be a happy and enjoyable one. Certain 'new norms' of last year now continue to be part of everyday life for our school community, including mindful distancing and enhanced cleaning of our school sites.

Over the last academic year, Viridis Schools has risen with energy to the challenges presented by the pandemic, learning to adapt and continuing to provide the best education for all pupils.

This term we have seen the reintroduction of clubs, class and year group trips, swimming, cycling, competitive sport, whole school face-to-face assemblies, singing and playtimes that enable pupils to mix once again across year groups. We are delighted to have welcomed three new Governors to our team this term, as well as a Young Governor as part of a Hackney pilot project. You can find out more about our new Governors on the back of this newsletter.

All governors are elected or appointed with one common purpose – to govern the school in the best interest of pupils. Governors ensure high standards of achievement for all children in the school, contributing to strategic discussion, holding senior leaders to account by monitoring school performance and ensuring money is well spent.

We hope that our Governor newsletter helps you better understand our work but please also follow our schools on Twitter or Facebook or take a look at our school websites to keep up to date with everything that we do.

Thank you for your support in making sure that our three-school partnership continues to be such a success.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?



Governors have now returned to face-to-face meetings with the first Full Governing Body meeting of the year taking place in October.

Governors have been reviewing reports from the School Improvement Partner, school data analysis, sub committee meetings and the Executive Headteacher to inform their understanding of how the schools are doing. Governors have also been discussing issues that affect all three schools such as risk assessments, safeguarding systems and premises works that are necessary for our Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

This term, Governors are also ensuring new members of the team are effectively inducted and undertaking training to make sure that the Governing Body continue to be effective in the important role of holding the school leadership teams to account.

There is more information about meetings as well as the annual calendar of meetings on the school websites.

The Governor Visit Morning this term was to Hoxton Garden School and there was a focus on the writing curriculum. The data from teacher assessments at the end of the last academic year showed data comparable with that of 2019, prior to COVID-19 partial school closures. The reason that children have closed gaps so quickly is the result of a quick response by the schools and a focus on key skills learning to consolidate and pre-teach new grammar and vocabulary. Governors spent the morning visiting classrooms, meeting staff and speaking to children. A group of children were also invited to present their learning and experiences of writing, which led to a very useful question and answer session. Next term, Governors will visit Southwold School, with a visit to Orchard planned for the Summer Term.

MEET OUR NEW GOVERNORS

AYA



Aya is our elected parent governor. She is a full-time artist whose work has been exhibited internationally, including the Tate and Victoria and Albert Museum. With a post-graduate degree in social policy, this combination enables her to bring creative solutions to complex problems. She was previously a charity director working on education projects with disadvantaged and refugee communities throughout the Middle East. She speaks five languages and two of her four children are currently at Southwold Primary School.

CHISARA



Chisara has joined us as a co-opted governor. She is a service and product specialist experienced in helping enterprises across diverse industries improve their operational performance through the application of evidence-based program management. She has worked across various product teams to make feedback loops and communication more effective through the use of experimentation, process engineering and service design. Chisara is deeply invested in organisational culture and helping companies to be more psychologically safe and equally opportunistic.

HAYAT



Hayat has joined us as an associate governor and will be part of the Hoxton Garden School subcommittee. In her job, Hayat is responsible for fostering a diverse and inclusive culture where each individual feels able to be themselves and able to contribute meaningfully to the firm's success. Hayat specifically leads on Race & Ethnicity, Social Inclusion and Family strategies in the EMEA region. Hayat is also responsible for the operational delivery of a broad range of programs and initiatives designed to increase the firm's ability to recruit, develop and promote a world-class talent pipeline that is diverse at every level.