

CHAIRS REPORT 2017_18

Our past academic year has seen the strengthening and consolidation of our senior leadership team as we have successfully integrated into the Ted Wragg Trust. This has enabled us to enjoy the benefits that working closely with a wider community of schools brings. We have recruited new members to the board of governors and I am confident that we now have a skill mix in the board that can ensure the school continues to move forward and builds upon the successes of the last year.

Our new disciplinary policy has dramatically improved the low-level classroom disruption that was impacting upon teaching. This combined with the commitment of our teaching staff has seen a very significant improvement in our GCSE results. The government focus is now on improvement and on this measurement we are above the UK average. Amongst the 48 schools in the area with which we compare ourselves we have now risen to number eight which is a remarkable achievement. As a board we have a particular focus to ensure best outcomes for those with special education needs and less advantaged students.

One of our major priorities is ensuring the well-being of our students and staff and we have mechanisms in place for obtaining feedback in these areas. The government is placing an increasing emphasis on mental health well-being in schools and we will be following this development very closely. The use of mobile phones in school is a topical issue and we will be following the initiative in France where phones have been banned in all schools.

We welcome the development of a program to support gifted students which the governors are keen to encourage and have been supporting from a practical perspective. We are keen to demonstrate exemplars of practice which can be used elsewhere. We are also encouraged by the move to develop a broader educational focus for our students to prepare them for the challenges of the real world and this term we are pleased to see the introduction of a program which will address needs in this area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the head teacher and his staff for their efforts over the past year and we move forward with considerable confidence and optimism towards the next academic year.

David Kernick. Chair of governors. September 2018.