

## **Annual Statement by the Governing Board**

### **Academic Year 2020/21**

The academic year 2020/21 started as the previous year had finished, with the UK still in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our staff responded magnificently to the problems entailed in providing a quality standard of education, in an environment that was safe for both the children and the staff.

Our schools provided on-site learning for the children of key workers and those children who were deemed vulnerable under the Government definition and our attendance levels were significantly higher than the national average. The schools also provided a robust programme to those children who were not able to access the on-site service.

The Governing Board's role during the pandemic has been to continue to monitor the ongoing situation and to offer advice and support where necessary but the burden has been borne almost entirely by the staff and our gratitude and appreciation goes to them, without reservation.

Throughout the pandemic, the Governing Board has continued to meet regularly, albeit virtually, via our computer screens rather than in person.

In December, Mr Boxall, the Executive Head Teacher, left to take up a position in London. This afforded us the opportunity to review our management structure and, together with our Senior Leadership team, we have opted to trial an arrangement whereby Wynstream, Chestnut and Montgomery schools will be managed by a Head Teacher (Mrs Brown at Wynstream and Chestnut and Mr Edge at Montgomery), without an over-arching Executive Head Teacher role. This structure was introduced in January and will run for three school terms, in the first instance.

Going forward, the Governing Board will work, with the Head Teachers, to restore our schools to a post-pandemic normality. We shall be particularly keen to ensure that any children who have struggled during the past year, receive the necessary support to catch up academically, socially and emotionally, where necessary.

We are also reviewing the Federation's strategic direction i.e. how we organise our schools in the future. There are a number of options available to us and we shall investigate all of them before making a final decision. We shall also ensure that staff and parents are fully informed and consulted before any final decision is made.

As always, the Governors are happy to hear from any interested party regarding the Federation's schools. The Governing Board can be contacted via the Clerk, Mrs Dyer, who is based at Montgomery.