

## **Ashmole Parent Forum**

1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

The meeting was chaired by Kat Vik (Parent Governor), and Richard van den Berg (Parent Governor) Philip Higgins (Chair of Governors) in attendance, minutes by Juliet Hobday (Community Governor).

Attendance: - 4 parents

### **Federation Next Steps**

The school is now in a hard federation with Wyvil, Vauxhall and Aurora House schools. The soft federation that we have been in for the last two years has worked well so the decision was taken to Federate. This means one governing body. Each school will have committee members focusing on individual schools. Some committee members will be members of the full governing body which will concentrate on the over view of four schools. Louise Banner our parent governor will take news and feed back from Ashmole to the larger governing body.

With the voting for new governors Ashmole has been very involved and we therefore have a good representation in the full governing body.

Most of the present governors have been put forward to be part of the Wyvern governing body. We feel Ashmole will be well represented in the new structure.

Everyone on the full governing body will sit on a committee, but not all committee members will sit on the full governing body.

Nothing will change for Children or staff, but we have great confidence in the new structure.

We have already seen benefits to belonging to the Federation, we are keeping staff, have good working practice and good results.

- **OFSTED**

We were inspected 3 weeks ago and are waiting for the moderated report hoping it will be out before Christmas. We think and feel that it went well.

Each school in the Federation still gets its own OFSTED inspection and each keeps its own budget. The government is talking about changing the way budgets are calculated, but as yet we haven't seen much change in funding.

Extra curricular activities are funded by various methods, some from school budget some from parent contribution. EDC has been looked at in great detail, we want to keep them running and will endeavor to do so, but prices do have to be reviewed annually. The school makes no profit on these activities the charge makes them sustainable.

The federation helps us share costs by sharing between schools. We currently share IT management and maintenance, but the hardware belongs to the school and we have to budget for that.

It was suggested that we shared extra curricular across the federation. Would the school let parents know what clubs and services are available in the other federated schools?

Code club was suggested as an idea.

Parents asked if the Children's passport scheme is still running.

Is Spanish still being taught in school and if so to what extent.

### **School results**

The school showed excellent improvement in results across the whole school. EYFS showed the best results in Lambeth and the school in general was in the top 10% nationally. These are great results thanks to improved school procedures, Child focused teaching and class teacher support and feedback.

Parent on going feed back can be done on the website by email or through the box in reception.

### **Question from parents.**

1. Would it be possible to run Code club at school?
2. Would the school let parents know what clubs and services are available in the other federated schools?
3. Parents asked if the Children's University passport scheme is still running?
4. Is Spanish still being taught in school and if so to what extent?

5. Is it possible to have a digital notice board?

### Answers from School

**1. Would it be possible to run "Code club" at school?**  
<https://www.codeclub.org.uk>

The School has been running a lunch time coding club since September 2016 which is currently open to Year 3 and Year 4 pupils. The club accommodate 12 pupils and they enjoy a six week block before the opportunity is then given to another group of 12 pupils. The School uses staff from The Ben Hollioake Learning Centre at The Kia Oval to run this club and there is no charge to pupils to participate. A lunch time cricket club takes place at the same time.

The current extra-curricular club offer and extensive music programme at Ashmole means that the School is almost at capacity in terms of the spaces available to offer any more additional before and after school activities. Information about the clubs available is provided each term and there are regular news items in the Ashmole Newsletter and The Ashmole Argus about the range of extra-curricular activities.

**2. Would the school let parents know what clubs and services are available in the other federated schools?**

The School will request this information from other schools within the Federation; parents may be able to find this on the websites of each school. The majority of clubs are run with the aim of filling the available places with pupils from the school where they are based. The Schools will review the opportunities to offer any available spaces at any of the clubs to pupils at the other Federation Schools in the future.

**3. Parents asked if the Children's passport scheme is still running?**

The Children's University Passport scheme does not run at Ashmole. The School will work with the service providers of the different clubs to explore the possibility of pupils working towards recognised awards and achievements.

**4. Is Spanish still being taught in school and if so to what extent?**

Modern Foreign Language teaching is a National Curriculum requirement in Key Stage 2. At Ashmole, we use a programme of study published by La Jolie Ronde during Spanish lessons in Years 3, 4 5 and 6. Lessons are usually 30 minutes long and there would be a minimum of 4-5 lessons per half term. Typically, these would take place weekly but may be blocked together on some occasions as a result of other curriculum events.

**5. Is it possible to have a digital notice board?**

This is not currently identified as part of the School's annual budget. The digital signage previously used by the School came at considerable expense including both an upfront fee and an annual usage fee both of which were several thousands of pounds. In order to communicate effectively with as many parents as possible the School uses a range of media: fortnightly newsletters sent to all families as paper copies and by email; letters and emails about specific events and activities; text message alerts and reminders; playground notice board (next to the middle doors) which includes latest editions of the Ashmole Newsletter.