



Chairman's annual report

In September 2017, the joint Local Governing Body at Stambridge and Waterman Primary Schools changed to a joint Local Advisory Board (LAB). With new Terms of Reference, our role at both schools moved away from traditional governance into a more collaborative role which complements the Hearts Academy Trustee Board well. We are now responsible for the following:

- Monitoring of behaviour, wellbeing and safety of pupils – including child protection policies, safeguarding systems and the PHSE curriculum
- Monitoring subject and curriculum development, and ensuring that high quality teaching, learning and assessment takes place
- Monitoring progress towards performance targets for pupils
- Contribution towards the school's annual Self Evaluation
- Monitoring ethos and implementation of Hearts values

This change enabled increased involvement in monitoring activities by staff LAB members as well as clearly defined roles for each member of the team. We recruited Sue Adams, a retired school office manager with many years' experience in the education sector, in September 2017 and throughout this year she has proved herself invaluable to the LAB. Nina Hunter, a parent at Stambridge, has also recently joined the LAB. This year has seen LAB members visit the school for formal monitoring activities at least 16 times, but we have also enjoyed additional visits to enjoy the children's performances in assemblies and WOW days; most recently the fantastic rendition of Pandora's box by Stambridge primary school.

Academically, this year has been of the utmost importance as both schools were visited by Ofsted on the very same days! The improvements made in both schools have been fantastic and have shown progress measures continually exceeded throughout the year, so it was so rewarding that Ofsted validated the efforts of the staff and pupils by grading both schools as 'Good'. The resulting reports showed that Ofsted had understood the unique characters of both schools and whilst the outcomes at KS2 remain poorer than we would like, it was satisfying to hear that "good humour and friendships are very evident" (SPS), that "the curriculum is a real strength" (SPS and WPS), and that "pupils are extremely polite and welcoming to visitors, eager to talk to them about their experiences of their 'fabulous, amazing school'" (WPS). End of year results have continued to validate the Ofsted judgement, with GLD, phonics and KS1 results commendable at both schools. Support continues to be fantastic for struggling pupils whereas those at the other end of the spectrum are given opportunities to develop their skills, such as the Apple workshop day where some KS1 pupils were introduced to coding!

Most importantly, both schools continue to offer the children unique experiences where they can develop their non-academic skills and demonstrate their Hearts values. Weekly forest school lessons continue, as have drumming sessions, swimming lessons and a myriad of school trips, including an overnight residential to Thriftwood scout camp for year 2, a weekend residential for year 6 pupils, trips to Stansted Mountfichet castle, the cinema and Hadleigh castle to name a few. These experiences reinforce children's love of learning and their enthusiasm during such events is infectious.

I look forward to seeing this love of learning continue into the next academic year. Have a well-deserved summer, everyone.

Jo Bradbury, Chair of LGB 2017/18