

Horizon Community College

Report of the Governing Body 2017-18

According to the Governance Handbook the three core functions of the governing body are

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

The governing body met on 5 occasions in 2017-18. The scrutiny of data and monitoring and evaluation of progress against the college development plan were undertaken at these formal meetings. We no longer have committees (apart from the Nursery Committee) so governors are linked with areas such as safeguarding, staffing, teaching & learning, progress and finance, and report back to the governing body in accordance with our yearly business plan.

We also held a number of governor training and information sessions where we met with senior and middle leaders to ask detailed questions about important aspects of the college, for example literacy & numeracy, SEND, and how pupil premium funding is used.

We held two informal meetings when we met to look at our effectiveness and impact as a governing body. We agreed a revised governors' code of conduct and reaffirmed our pledge to ensure that our decisions are taken in the best interests of current and future students.

Our ethos is based on inclusivity, and we have high aspirations for and high expectations of all students. We fully support the rich offer of extra-curricular activities provided by the college and the creative opportunities students are given.

In May, our academy order was confirmed. After much discussion and the carrying out of appropriate due diligence we agreed to join the Hoyland Common Multi Academy Trust (HCAT). We are excited to become members of what will be a cross-phase trust, based in Barnsley and with a commitment to raising the aspiration and attainment of all Barnsley children. As an outward-looking and collaborative college we value working with other education providers to make continuous improvements.

In May also, we had a one day Ofsted inspection. This was a valuable experience for us as it confirmed our views on the college's strengths and challenges, and recognised the steps that were being taken to remedy any shortcomings. The Ofsted judgement of a solid good reflected the consistent hard work of staff and students since we opened.

Through open discussion with senior staff and external advisors we know that performance management systems in the college are robust and that ensuring good or better teaching and learning in the classroom is core to our students' success. The college's financial position is sound and money is spent in line with our college development plan.