

## **Horizon Community College Local Governing Body Review of the Year 2019-2020**

This was our first year as a local governing body after the College joined HCAT in June 2019. Governors have welcomed the training and support offered to us by the Trust.

The local governing body met regularly throughout the academic year in order to monitor the College's priorities for school improvement. Panels and committees met as necessary, and link governors continued in their roles, inquiring into their particular areas and reporting back to the local governing body, ensuring that we all get to know the College, and providing evidence that challenging questions have been asked and answered by senior leaders.

Governors also attended a series of development sessions led by College staff which covered, for example, the new Ofsted framework, results (Inspection Data Summary Report) and SEND. We also attended cross-trust training sessions, for example on safeguarding and child protection.

From the national lockdown in March governors continued to carry out our roles virtually, holding business meetings, panels and recruiting staff via Zoom. Staff and student safety and wellbeing were top of the agenda as the College remained open for certain groups of students, while the majority of students engaged in home learning, supported by staff. Comprehensive risk assessments were carried out which enabled Y10 students to return on a rota basis from 15<sup>th</sup> June; all students were invited into the College for an appointment with staff before the end of term. Transition arrangements were different this year, but no less thorough.

Governors continued to receive regular updates from staff throughout the summer term, both by email and on video and were kept fully informed of any issues. Senior leaders worked exhaustively on plans to improve the education and experience of students in the college.

At the end of the summer term, governors met informally to look at what had gone well in the year and what we could have done better. Governing 'at a distance' was a challenge we had not previously encountered, and a discussion was held on how to meet our responsibilities while supporting staff who were working so hard.

Governors now feel confident to go forward with our refreshed vision and college improvement plan including a recovery plan that will support students in making the progress they deserve. Staff have been trained in live teaching lessons via Teams and will ensure that no student is disadvantaged.

Governors have agreed priorities for us in 2020-21:

- The safety and wellbeing of staff and students
- To improve link governance to inform the work of the local governing body
- To be more pro-active in supportive challenge to improve outcomes for students
- To be 'Ofsted ready', to participate in governor training and development, and to be a learning local governing body