

Kings Langley School: Annual Report to Kings Langley Parish Council April 2019

1. Following the announcement that the current Headteacher (Gary Lewis) is retiring in August 2019 the school embarked on a determined programme to appoint a successor for this crucial position. The Governors are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr David Fisher as the new Headteacher. Mr Fisher has worked with Mr Lewis previously and will start his tenure after Easter 2019. During the summer term, he will work alongside Mr Lewis to ensure a smooth and effective transition. Mr Lewis will work in a part-time capacity during the autumn term to provide school improvement advice.
2. Admissions to the school continue to surpass by some margin the number of spaces available. The number of applicants for this September is 728 students (the highest ever) with some 105 students remaining on the "continuing interest list" and therefore we expect there to be a large number of appeals for places (usually held in May).
3. Although sixth form A Level results were good in summer 2018, our GCSE results were below expectations and consequently disappointing. There is little doubt that the acute national problem of teacher recruitment is having a big impact (we spent some 18 months with indifferent supply staff teaching mathematics) and the fallout from the major move to the new building had a significant impact. However, a determined and well-funded programme of staff recruitment has resulted in some outstanding appointments in key subject areas and we have now increased our number of "lead practitioner" teachers by five teachers. Results for this summer are expected to return to usual high levels.
4. Our students are clearly enjoying the outstanding new facilities and resources provided by our new school and I am delighted to report that these facilities are now also being used in the evenings and during school holiday periods by many local community groups. Bookings are heavy and I am delighted that we are able to live up to our title of a "local community comprehensive school". The school has recently appointed an external management group to oversee all out of hour's bookings and to promote further use of our facilities, which includes a recently laid artificial cricket strip.
5. The school remains an independent "stand alone" Academy directly funded by the Department for Education. However, we will be exploring opportunities to combine with other schools (specifically Primary Schools) in order to ensure solid financial stability going forward. The school is in an excellent financial position at present but faces severe challenges to budget settings over the coming years as national reductions in school funding start to impact negatively.
6. As a national lead school, Kings Langley continues to work closely with the University of Birmingham on the development of personal character and

resilience. We are visited regularly by many schools and have been asked to support a number of these schools in implementing an effective Character Education Programme. Mr Lewis has been appointed by the Secretary of State to a policy advisory group and this follows the school's award of the National Kitemark Plus for Character Education - the only school in the UK to receive this award.

7. The school is delighted that our new Parish Vicar, Father James McDonald has shown a determination to work closely with the school going forward. Following two successful visits, James has agreed to lead a range of school assemblies over coming months and we are pleased that he will be bringing his spiritual wisdom and guidance to our school community.
8. Sporting successes continue to be celebrated and we were delighted to have been represented in finals at both County and regional level in several sports, including football and rugby. Our senior girls were once again the regional winners in a rugby competition and came fourth overall in the national competition held in the far north! Individual students have gained national and international honours on the trampoline and in skiing, high diving and ice dancing.

Gary Lewis

Headteacher