

It's now been a month since the return to school for the young people and I'm sure the Summer holiday is a distant but warm memory. What is apparent, having visited the school for a 'learning walk' with Dee Modric- Webb and Mr Brown, is that the young people and staff have returned with a positivity that is palpable.

As I have mentioned before, the principal role of the Governing Body is to offer a strategic oversight of the school. Further to the work conducted both at our Full Governing meetings and small sub-committees, this strategic role also involves spending time in the school within the framework of the 'learning walk'.

The 'learning walk' fulfils part of our role in monitoring the school's strategy in relation to learning and developing a rounded understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. It also allows us an opportunity to move around the school, observe learning and talk to the young people, staff and any volunteers. To this end, each 'walk' is completed by a Governor who has a specific oversight of either a specific area of learning or a more general theme and then reports back to the Full Governing Body.

Myself and Dee's recent walk focussed on the provision of Design Technology and Science across the Key Stages as well as 'behaviour'. Whilst I will offer a summary of these learning walks following our next FGB I think it is worth remarking that both Dee and myself were struck by the purposefulness and focus of the young people we saw and spoke with. The young people, across all the year groups, seemed happy, engaged in what they were learning and keen to contribute when asked. There was a buzz across the school that was a privilege to witness.

Meeting of the Governing Body: 19th September 2017

This is principally an administrative meeting and as such is mainly spent on ensuring that the governance of the FGB is fit for purpose for the forth- coming year. To this end, I was returned as the Chair of Governors for the academic year and Dee was voted in as vice- chair of the FGB. As a FGB we agreed our standing orders and committed to our 'Code of Conduct'. Finally, dates for future FGB, sub- committee meetings and learning walks were agreed. If you wish to know who the link-governor is in relation to each specific area of learning, Sue Lockwood (Clerk to Governors) can provide you with the name. slockwood@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk

As governors, we are always keen to hear about you and your children's experiences, positive or not so. This said, it is important to stress that our role is about oversight rather than the day-to-day business of the school. To this end, if there are specific issues related to your child's school experience I would encourage you to contact the class teacher at the earliest opportunity either verbally or via email so that the issue might be addressed appropriately and in a timely fashion.

The Governing Body plans to meet on

Thursday 9th November @ 6.30pm

Thursday 1st February @ 6.30pm

Thursday 22nd March @ 6.30pm

Wednesday 9th May @ 8am (Budget ratification)

Friday 6th July – Governor morning from 8.45am

Brendan Reid (Chair of Governors)