

Social media summary from LGC meeting 30/09/21

Last night we had our first meeting of the 2021-22 year, and there are fresh starts aplenty: it's a new academic year; we are back to a much more normal way of learning for the pupils here; we have a Good Ofsted judgement (Hurrah!!), which was entirely to be expected; and we now have a new Chair of Governors, Donna Wass, who will be outstanding in the role I know.

Many matters were discussed last night, around Safeguarding, which you will know is our top priority as Governors, Curriculum tweaks, the (almost) total return to normality, the enthusiasm of your children at being back in school and back mixing fully with one another, and learning again. We also discussed the provisions for children with Special Educational needs, and how good it is. This was an area where Ofsted paid particular tribute to the school's approach and that is something to be very proud about. Mr Herbert said how good it was to be back to something like a normal school environment, after a very difficult 18 months.

Policies on Behaviour (outstanding in the Ofsted report), SEND, Early Years, Admissions, and Sex and Relationship Education, were accepted and approved.

It's a shame, as I have said before, not to have met many of you or your children more in my brief tenure as Chair of the Governing Board at CWR. I don't need to rehearse the reasons for that obviously. My brief was to come in for one year from 2019, to help make some changes to the LGC, to make it as effective as possible for the future. COVID meant that I extended that for a year, in part to see the LGC through Ofsted. Mission accomplished. I am really proud of my colleague governors who have embraced new approaches to their role with real commitment. So the school is in safe hands from that perspective.

I want to pay tribute as I ride into the sunset, as it were, to the staff at CWR. They really are excellent. I can also say that the Ofsted process, which is necessary, is at the same time pretty gruelling. The staff looked exhausted at the end of it, and that reflects the effort and commitment in not only making the school brilliant, but showing that it is as well which, like it or not, is important. Make no mistake - CWR is not "Good", it is Very Good Indeed.

Finally I also want to doff my cap to my colleague governors, many of whom are new to the role and who, in a very confusing 18 months, have really stepped up and are already becoming highly effective. Being a Governor is important and is not always easy. It can be a bit daunting to begin with, but it is very rewarding when it is done well, as it is being. Do continue to give them your full support as the school continues on its wonderful journey.

I wish everyone at CWR a really good year to come.

With best wishes.

John Sharpe (now ex-chair of LGC)