

GOVERNOR TALK

November 2017

Hello Governors

Welcome to the first Governor Talk of this academic year. I hope you find the layout and information useful, but please do let me know if there is anything specific you would like going forward. *Jill*

What's new from Transform



We have purchased a Trust membership package which includes all the schools for bronze membership. You should shortly be receiving an email from NGA with your login and password and a weekly email outlining the latest news in school governance. NGA is an independent charity representing and supporting governors, trustees and clerks in schools. They offer a range of membership services, advice and guidance. To find out more: www.nga.org.uk



Our **'Effective Governance in Action'** handbook is now released which outlines more about the Trust and the services and training we can provide. Please take time to have a look through and book onto any training you need. It is attached to the email.



The Trust will soon have a new website and I'll keep you posted when this becomes live.



We have purchased a system called "The Trust Governor" which provides a secure platform for Governing bodies to move towards a fully paperless environment, before, during and after meetings, with email communications, meeting and document management and a forum, Governors are fully "in-touch". We are trailing this at the moment, but will let you know the feedback and roll-out process in due course.

Let's Celebrate



So far, this term, we've had two Ofsted inspections: Brocklewood in September 2017 and Allenton in October 2017. This was their first inspection since converting, and I delighted to confirm that both schools secured a 'good' outcome which is an improvement on both their previous inspections.

STOP PRESS! Rosslyn has received the Ofsted call this week – so that's makes one per term since we came back! I am sure you will all join me in wishing Rosslyn the best of luck – Go Rosslyn!



Congratulations to Edale Rise who had their Area of Excellence confirmed: **New to English** earlier in the term.

For more information contact jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk



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Funding News

The DfE is doubling the PE and Sport funding for primary schools. To read more: <http://bit.ly/2yKGekS>. In addition, the government is delivering a series of actions to improve children's health. Alongside the doubled PE and Sport Premium, we are investing £100 million through the [Healthy Pupils Capital Fund](#) to facilitate improvements to children's physical and mental health by increasing and improving access to and use of relevant facilities, such as kitchens, dining facilities, changing rooms and sports facilities.



On a similar note.... "as part of our wider programme of work, we are also investing a further £26 million in breakfast clubs. This money will encourage innovation and kick-start or improve breakfast clubs in at least 1,500 schools, with a focus on increasing provision for disadvantaged pupils in [Opportunity Areas](#)".



The Trust has secured funding from the SSIF Round 1 worth £260k which is a partnership bid being led by Sarah Heesom who wrote and secured the funding. The funding will be used to support Reading in our schools and a number of other schools across the City. SSIF Round 2 has been submitted which will focus on Maths and is more than double Round 1.

Other Trust bids:

- We have submitted two tenders to Derby City for school improvement work – again focusing on Reading at key stage 1 and Comprehension at key stage 2. We will know later this week if we have been successful.
- Multi-Academy Trust Development Grant – Steve Cox will be submitted a bid to the Regional Schools Commissioner later this month. We will keep you posted as to the outcome.

Catch up on reading – latest reports and research

Physical Activity in Early Childhood, report published – <http://bit.ly/2ikbnFW>.

Narrowing of the primary curriculum

I have previously commented that where school leaders and teachers have an overt focus on performance tables, this can lead to mistaking 'badges and stickers' for learning and substance. Acing the test trumps gaining the knowledge. In addition, where there is little shared curriculum thinking among staff, it becomes increasingly difficult to moderate the influence of the test syllabus on primary curriculum design... read more here: <http://bit.ly/2yf81tx>.



Department for Education – Email alerts

You can sign up free to receive gov.uk email alerts about anything you are interested in – following the link to register: <http://bit.ly/2zHXbLw>.

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TRANSFORM TRUST
8 Teaching School Alliance
"Together we Achieve"



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The DfE is planning to develop a '*fundamental British values curriculum*' – a new curriculum will assist schools in promoting fundamental British values and building resilience to extremist ideologies. A new expert advisory group is currently being established, set to meet in November 2017 – resources are expected to be published on the Educate Against hate website once developed.

Key Documents

Just a reminder of the documents that you as a Governor need to be aware of:

- **Academies Financial Handbook**
<http://bit.ly/2jQvGcR>
- **Governance Handbook and Competency Framework**
<http://bit.ly/2jW2l1l>
- **Scheme of Delegation** – please check your individual school website for this.

Diary Dates

Separate to the Governor Training, we have scheduled a number of Governor Briefings:

Safeguarding (Claire Smith and Jill Wilkinson):

Tuesday 5 December, 8-9am at Transform Trust and repeated on Tuesday 12 December, 5-6pm

Joint Safeguarding and Health & Safety (Jill Wilkinson and David Thompson, LA)

Thursday 15 March, 8-9 and repeated on the same day at 5-6pm

General Governors Briefing

Tuesday 19 June, 8-10am

There may be additional briefings added in dependent on need.

Schools in the Trust

Do you know who the schools are in our Trust? If not, I thought it would be helpful to outline who they are, when they joined and their Chair of Governors:

School	Local Authority	Date Joining the Trust	Chair of Governors
Sneinton St. Stephen's	Nottingham	1 January 2013	Vernon Lloyd
Highbank Primary	Nottingham	1 October 2013	Alison Day
Edale Rise Primary	Nottingham	1 April 2014	Claire Smith
Allenton Primary	Derby	1 January 2015	Steve Stafford

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Rosslyn Park Primary	Nottingham	1 January 2015	Alex Norris, MP
Brocklewood Primary	Nottingham	1 July 2015	Peter Munro
Bulwell St. Mary's Primary	Nottingham	1 August 2016	Karen Slack
Burford Primary	Nottingham	1 August 2016	Rob Denzel
Robert Shaw Primary	Nottingham	1 June 2017	Jill Wilkinson
William Booth Primary	Nottingham	1 June 2017	Phil Haywood
Breadsall Hill Top Primary	Derby	1 July 2017	Malcolm Staley
Pear Tree Junior	Derby	1 July 2017	Fr Andy Nicholls
Whitegate Primary	Nottingham	1 July 2017	Stewart Powell

Useful websites

National Governors' Association: www.nga.org.uk



General information and advice for all Governors. The Trust has bought a corporate membership package so your school will provide you with their discrete login to be able to allow you to access the members' area.

The Key for Governors: <http://bit.ly/1Km9XSy>

General Information and advice for all Governors. There is a membership charge for this organisation which is not covered in your package.



GovernorLine: <http://bit.ly/2AEyX4f>



GovernorLine is a national helpline offering free, confidential and independent advice, information and support to school governors, clerks and individuals involved directly in the governance of schools and multi-academy trusts in England. GovernorLine comprises of a telephone advice line and an email enquiry service.

Free: 0800 151 2410 between 9-8pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Modern Governor: <http://www.moderngovernor.com> - Online learning for Governors.



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