



Holy Trinity Academy

Governors' First Annual Report to Parents

Governors are delighted to report on a highly successful first year in which two key priorities have permeated every aspect of their work, ensuring that the culture and ethos of the school reflects its Christian foundation and is embedded into policy and practice, working relentlessly but productively with the Headteacher and staff to ensure that every student achieves the highest standards of which he/she is capable.

In doing this, Governors have aimed to express Holy Trinity's motto of Faith, Aspiration and Unity.

Throughout the year Governors have focused on the four key functions of their role.

- setting the vision and strategic direction of the school
- holding the Headteacher and staff to account for the school's educational performance
- ensuring financial resources are well spent and ensuring that statutory duties are met
- the curriculum offer is appropriate and priorities are approved

To fulfil the requirements of each of the above, Governors have established a number of committees. Each committee acts as a critical friend, helping to identify and support priorities in its area, monitoring and evaluating provision and reporting back to the Full Governing Body, where policy and practice is debated and agreed, at half termly intervals.

Key committees cover:

- Curriculum, Standards and Christian Character
- Buildings, Health and Safety and Safeguarding
- Finance and Personnel

In addition to attending committee meetings and half termly meetings of the Full Governing Body, those Governors who are able have made regular visits during the school day to observe, monitor and evaluate provision at first hand, for example:

- a) in Special Educational Needs and Safeguarding, where statutory reviews have been undertaken and subsequently approved by the Full Governing Body
- b) in Teaching and Learning through learning walks with the Headteacher and/or Senior Leaders to look at the quality and continuity of provision
- c) In meetings with staff and/or officers of the Local Authority to evaluate progress in specific areas for example in the school's Raising Achievement Plan.
- d) The Reverend Tim Carter and Father Bill Fitzgerald have regularly lead acts of collective worship
- e) The majority of Governors have been frequent visitors to the wide range of Dance and Drama productions led by the school's thriving Performing Arts Department.
- f) Throughout the year Governors have contributed to the appointment of teaching staff and ensured that any outstanding building work has been completed to the required standard.

Governors have received regular progress reports covering all aspects of the schools work and, by engaging in the activities detailed above, have been able to validate these.

In addition to its three key committees, Governors have also established a number of panels that have met as required. These include admissions, appeals, complaints, staff and student discipline, all of which have set procedures.

Another panel, comprising three Governors and an external adviser, has been established to carry out the Headteacher's Annual Performance Management. This process has been driven by the school's key priorities as agreed by the Headteacher and Governors and which subsequently form the performance management targets set for staff.

This year's external examination results* of which students, staff, parents and Governors can be justifiably proud, together with an ever increasing demand for places, not only in Year 7 (which is full and has been subject to a number of appeals) but throughout the rest of the school provides concrete evidence that the school has 'hit the ground running'. Other markers of success include winning Shropshire's prestigious Young Enterprise Award against competition that included local Grammar and Independent schools and establishing links with Brasenose College, Oxford and St. John's College, Cambridge. Existing links with the University of Wolverhampton have been further strengthened with a number of undergraduate students now supporting our Year 11 Mentoring Programme.

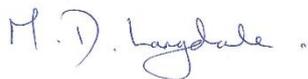
The year has not been without its challenges, most of which were inherent to the new build and have been rectified through the work of the Headteacher and Buildings, Health and Safety and Safeguarding Committee. Transport issues have been ongoing and remain the focus of action as do issues relating to lettings which have been referred to HMRC and hopefully will be resolved in the near future, thus allowing community use of the buildings.

Holy Trinity's rapidly increasing student population has presented challenges and opportunities for the Governors to appoint additional members of staff of the highest quality, with the right mix of skills and experience to engage in supporting the school's very positive development. We are confident of our success in this.

All Governors have reviewed their own skills and experience on a regular basis and attended training as appropriate in order to continue both to support and challenge Holy Trinity's continuing successful growth and development.

Governors have welcomed the introduction of a PTFA Committee, members of which have already involved themselves by providing refreshments at our very busy Year 6 Open Evening and are planning a Year 7 disco.

Moving forward, we aspire to further raise standards, to embed Holy Trinity's Christian character both within school and across the wider community and to maintain high quality provision for all students in the context of the school's rapid growth.



Chair of Governors
Holy Trinity Academy

* Over 71% of Year 11 students gained at least 5 Grade A* - C GCSEs, with a significant number of passes at A* and A. All Year 13 students seeking University places were successful in securing the required grades, others have secured apprenticeships and one student has joined the Royal Air Force.