

## Governor Update – January 2017

Last term was a very busy one for St Edmund's School and the Governors were privileged to be present at a number of the Christmas celebrations which showcased the musical and dramatic talents of our children. We hope all parents, grandparents and carers enjoyed a well-earned rest and that you and your children are ready for another exciting term at St Edmund's. With this update we would like to keep you informed about the work of the Governors at our school. If you would like to contact the Governors, please leave a message with the school office, or speak to one of our Parent Governors.

### School Performance

We were delighted to find out at the end of last term that based on KS2 performance data from 2016 which has now been validated St Edmund's was on the top 10% state primaries in Oxfordshire. This is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff and students at St Edmund's who rose to the challenge of the new, more rigorous curriculum and achieved well above the national average in all areas: Reading - 77% compared to a national average of 66%, Writing 81% compared to NA of 74%, Maths 81% - compared to NA of 70% and overall Reading, Writing and Maths at the expected standard 73% - compared to NA of 53%.

Of particular note was the achievement of our EAL students (students for whom English is a second language) who achieved 33% at greater depth for Reading, Writing and Maths versus the national average of 5%. Also, our more able students achieved far in excess of national averages for this group of pupils. We are ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 311 schools in Oxfordshire for the achievement of our most-able students (those who achieved the higher standard in all subjects).

### Governing Body

We welcomed to the Governing Body our new Parent Governor, Phil Cole and two new Foundation Governors, Veronica Allen and Kayleigh Pratt. At the end of this academic year we will need one further Parent Governor, so if this is a role which interests you please pass your details on to the Governors via the school office.

### Diocesan News

The process to convert all schools in the Portsmouth Diocese to academies belonging to MATs (Multi-Academy Trusts) continues slowly. St Edmund's will form part of the last wave of schools to convert to academies, probably sometime in mid 2018. We will update parents with further details of this process when we receive them.

### Governor Mark

This year the Governing Body will be applying for the award of Governor Mark which provides external evaluation of the quality of governance in a school. This is a challenging award which focuses on impact and the difference a governing body makes to a school.

### 100 Club

The 100 Club will be relaunched this year and we hope to capitalise on this opportunity for fundraising for our school. Please consider buying a number for yourself or a family member – for £15 for one year. Your number is entered into monthly draws with prizes of £30, £20 and £10 each month. Please contact Phil Cole via the school office if you would like to join.

### School Development Plan

Our current school development priorities are as follows: 1) achieve the first level of the Oscar Romero award focussing on Catholic Social Teaching and the promotion of social justice, 2) focus on challenge and engagement of all groups of pupils in lessons, 3) develop Science as a key part of the curriculum and qualify for the Primary Science Mark, 4) Ensure that the % of boys making a Good Level of Development in the Early Years continues to increase.

### Nursery Provision

We are delighted that from September 2017 our school will be able to offer parents full-time and flexible Nursery provision. This means that the Early Years education we offer, recognised by OFSTED as a strength of the school, will be available to more children in our community. More details will be available soon, but, in the meantime, please speak to the School Office if you are interested and please do share this information with others in the local community.