

HEADTEACHER'S GOVERNORS' REPORT **SUMMER TERM 2016**

Introduction presented by Mr S M Jones, Headteacher

Cardiff High School has had another successful year both in terms of performance, whether that be academically, culturally or socially. Cardiff High School continues to lead much of the agenda in Wales for School to School support and improving teaching practice. However, there have been challenges and it has also been a difficult year financially as school budgets continue to bite hard.

There has been the considerable challenge of oversubscription of pupil numbers again this year. This has been applicable to every year group in the school. It remains a challenge to present a curriculum to meet the wide range of pupil needs in Cardiff High School, to fund appropriate changes and to have the space for children to enjoy their recreational activities, when we have so many pupils on such a small site.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I present this small report on what has been a record breaking year for the school.

Improvement Hub Update presented by Mr S Thompson, Deputy Headteacher

Cardiff High School continues to play a lead role in the ongoing school-to-school improvement agenda at a local, regional and national level. The central south consortium has reset its improvement hub model and redesigned it to align with changes occurring at a National Level within Welsh Government, through the National Pioneer Network. The school has been successful in its application to operate and support other schools in three capacities:

1. Professional Learning Hub

The school will focus on providing support and high quality professional learning opportunities focusing on NQTs, outstanding practice for expert teachers as well as leading the regional support provision for initial teacher education and aspiring senior leaders

2. Curriculum Hub

The school will provide professional learning programmes and bespoke support and provision for red-amber schools in three curriculum areas: Mathematics, Science and Second Language Welsh

3. Lead Practitioner

The school will provide guidance and support for non-core subjects in PE, Music, RS, History and Design Technology

At a national level, the school was successful in its bid to become a national "New Deal Pioneer School". This network of schools will work alongside Welsh Government in leading the educational sector through the significant changes ahead. Cardiff High School will play a significant role in the development of the high quality professional learning opportunities to support schools, from all regions in Wales, both improving pedagogical approaches to Learning and Teaching, but also offering timely training opportunities relevant to the national career pathway profile.

The school also represents the Central South region by sitting on the Welsh Government Strategy and steering group for New Deal.

This work allows and benefits the school through a range of excellent networking and collaborative partnerships to support it in improving its own practices.

Attendance presented by Mrs A Yarrow, Deputy Headteacher

Cardiff High School, once again set itself the aspirational attendance target of 96.5% for 2015/16 and our attendance to date currently stands at 95.2%. We are anticipating that the target will be met by the end of the academic year. This represents a 3% rise since 2010 and will place the school in the top quarter of similar schools in Wales for attendance for the fifth consecutive year.

Exclusions presented by Mrs A Yarrow, Deputy Headteacher

The school is pleased to report that for the fifth year running there have been no permanent exclusions.

For this academic year, the school is running at **20** fixed term exclusions compared to **39** over the same period within the last academic year. This is well below the city average. There is, undoubtedly, a concerted effort by all staff to ensure that students are treated fairly and that both preventative and intervention strategies are swiftly adopted. The Nurture provision, coupled with Restorative Justice strategies have enhanced the positive discipline procedures at the school and have supported the reduction in fixed term exclusions.

Following a successful trial of the Restorative Room, the school has now adopted this as a formal strategy for modifying behaviour and repairing relationships – including those between pupils and those between staff and pupils. The initiative has been highly successful, supporting the bid to effectively reduce the number of fixed term exclusions. The purpose of the Restorative Room, therefore, is to provide an internal exclusion with the unique aim of encouraging learners with appropriate support, to reflect upon unacceptable behaviour; to undertake work provided by subject teachers and to access bespoke programmes from the Nurture provision such as Anger Management and Raising Self-Esteem. The timing of the day within the Restorative Room is not in line with the remainder of the school so that students are denied the privilege of having lunch and break with their peers.

ICT & New Technologies Update presented by Mr R Brown, Director of New Technologies

Since our previous update the ICT Support department have implemented new reprographics machines which are more cost effective for the school and more reliable giving us the ability to bring our entire photo copying needs in-house. These are supplied and maintained by a local firm "Blue Sky Digital". The assistance and support provided by the firm has been welcomed by staff and we have forged a new business relationship with this company which I am sure will continue for many years to come.

The Design Technology department will be benefiting from new computers over the coming weeks as we are replacing all of their pcs and all teaching staff pcs will be receiving a boost this year by replacing old hard disks.

The schools previous reliance on financial leases has significantly diminished as, because we use refurbished computers, we are able to purchase these for a fraction of the cost of a new pc and, whilst saving funds for the school, we are able to maintain quality and consistency for all users.

Over the summer term we will be continuing to improve the school's teaching spaces and invest in improved room layouts designed by the department which allows for an enhanced learning and teaching experience for both students and staff.

We are also investigating providing a "private cloud" for staff and students which would facilitate remote access to all key resources and systems for both staff and students and we will also be beginning our development and testing for windows [™] 10 and Office 2016 deployments, so watch this space.

Estates Department Update presented by Mr C Newton, Estates Manager

The school has completed the lighting upgrade converting around 80% of our existing fluorescent lighting units to LED fittings. This has had a positive impact on the school environment and been appreciated by staff and students due to the brighter, crisper lighting in corridors and classrooms. The lighting is covered by a 5 year warranty so any costs from maintenance issues are met by the installation contractor.

The remaining 'hold open' devices have been installed to the fire doors. These allow for a much improved through flow of staff and students, particularly at lesson changes and break times, which has alleviated a lot of issues of bottlenecks and overcrowding. The devices are designed to release the doors in the event of the fire alarm system activating, thereby sealing off the school should a fire occur. These are all checked during the weekly fire alarm system checks.

We have also created an additional secure cycle storage area at the rear of the Sixth Form Centre which can be used by all students and allows for an additional 30 cycles.

Due to the earlier than anticipated deterioration of the paint finish within the new extension block we have been carrying out a decoration programme since returning in January to repaint the block to a silk finish. This has been carried out during the holidays and after school hours and has rejuvenated the public areas and corridors which were starting to look old before their time. This is currently an on-going project. The long standing issue with regards to the leaking reception area in the location of the new block meeting the old block, has been approved and replacement of the 'tower block' curtain walling is due to start in the summer recess. Another issue that has been identified in the new extension is the lack of a draught lobby which causes problems to reception staff with regards to cold and incoming breeze when the doors are opened. The automatic doors are also affected by the inclement weather and rain causes malfunctions on the sensors putting them out of action until repaired. After much lobbying of the LEA funding and planning has been agreed for the construction of a new draught lobby which will also begin construction in the summer.

Further to the toilet renovations carried out last summer we are continuing to upgrade and have identified another 2 toilet blocks for refurbishment to be carried out in the summer.

Planned works for the summer recess within the estates team includes refurbishment of toilets, transformation of external storage area to an additional classroom, refurbishment of 8 Maths department classrooms to include new carpets, decoration, new blinds, new classroom tables and chairs.

Finance presented by Mr S M Jones, Headteacher

It has once again, been a very difficult year financially. However, the school is pleased to have presented a neutral budget.

Staff Changes

It has again been a busy year for recruitment. I enclose below a list of all new staff, teaching and non-teaching.

New Staff

Teaching

Daniel Devonald, Permanent Teacher of Maths
Jamie Stevens, Temporary Teacher of Maths
Sarah Williams, Permanent Teacher of Maths
Bethan Forbes, Temporary Teacher of English
Katie Rees, Permanent Teacher of Economics and Business Studies
Alys Habberfield, Permanent Teacher of PE
Sophie Faria, Temporary Teacher of Music
Amy Reddington, Temporary Teacher of Science
Lucy Jenkins, Permanent Teacher of Maths
Rosemarie Foreman, Temporary Teacher of Maths
Carol Phillips, Permanent Teacher of ICT and Computer Science
John Amer, Temporary Teacher of ICT and Computer Science
Rhian Marsh, Temporary Teacher of Design & Technology
Jonathon Reddy, Teacher of Chemistry (Maternity Cover)