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Focus on...

Welcome to the first edition of our Governance Newsletter. We will be producing an edition every two months to share information about what's going on in the world of governance..

Whilst our governance has been in place since the formation of Nexus, in 2022 our local governing boards (LGBs) moved to an Academy Council model. Many of the governors have been appointed for some time and we are grateful for your continued support.

We have also had quite a number of new governors and we welcome you on board.

We will be holding an event in the late Spring and we will be carrying out an Induction session in support of the Induction Pack you receive when you first join. It will be open to all, so if you feel like you need a governance refresher, then please come along. More on this in the next issue.

At your next round of meetings we'll be issuing the annual Skills Audit—this is a self evaluation against a range of governance criteria. It is designed to help us plan our governor learning and development and to help you to be the best governor you can be. Please answer the questions as honestly as you can and highlight any areas where you feel you would like to learn more. We'll identify a range of learning, either virtual or in person, and if there is enough interest we can plan another governor networking event in the late Autumn.

This is your newsletter, so get in touch with the team if you would like to contribute, or to know more.

Chair's Shares

As Chair of the Trust I genuinely welcome the production of this governance newsletter as it is a means by which those involved in governing at academy and board level can communicate with each other.

My intention is to contribute on a regular basis, talking about schools I have visited, strategic challenges facing the trust as well as set out my thoughts about governance itself. And on that point, I would like to quote Einstein who once said "The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence."

Happy New Year everyone, Andy



Chief in brief

Happy New Year, one and all. The Autumn term Academy Council meetings all seemed to be received well, as we rolled out this new model of local governance.

The end of the 2022 calendar year also brought some much needed certainty about the Government's plans for additional funding for **all** schools, which is welcome support.



Governance Underpinnings

Academy Trust Handbook Scheme of Delegation Annual Accounts and Governance Statement

For more information on the above visit www.nexusmat.org

School in the spotlight

In each issue we will feature a different school.

We would like to know how school governors are involved in activities either in or related to their school, in addition to them attending their formal Local Governing Body or Academy Council meetings.

Maybe you have been helping to organise an event, or perhaps you have been doing some fundraising or, if you are a Parent Governor, maybe you have been meeting up with wider parent/carer groups. In some schools, governors have had a walking tour and have looked in more detail at the school's self-evaluation.

Whatever it is, we'd like to know about what you have been doing and hopefully this will inspire other ideas about getting involved in your school community.

School in the Spotlight next time is Pennine View in Conisbrough.

Pupil Parliaments

Most of our schools have a Schools Parliament and pupils meet with staff to highlight issues in their school. In 2022 we introduced a Trust Pupil Cabinet which meet three times per year, with an MP from each school and the Chief Executive who chairs the meetings. Some of the things that have been introduced by the Pupil Parliaments in different schools include a newsletter for pupils, fundraising to pay for playground equipment and reading area, voting on whether to have a school dog and working with the school cooks to plan the Christmas Dinner. Items for future discussion include having a Nexus Prom, a Nexus Olympics in 2023, and to hold the Trust Pupil Cabinet meetings in a different school each time so they can meet other pupils and see other schools. Other work in the wider community has involved raising money to send gifts to children abroad and selling poppies for Remembrance Day.

Staff Parliament

The staff Parliament has been created to ensure there is a clear process in place for hearing and responding to employee voice from across the Trust. The group will meet at least 3 times per year, typically online to reduce travel requirements and support the Trust's programme of work to reduce its carbon footprint.

The Parliament will explore a range of matters such as staff recognition and reward, creation of social clubs and the work of the Multi Academy Trust for and on behalf of its workforce.

Although the forum itself is consultative in nature (it holds no delegated decision making powers or responsibilities) the work of this forum will be reported directly to the Trust Board who will use feedback to inform the business planning of the Trust.

Events and Learning

- Governor Induction— Coming in late Spring — Date announced in the next issue
- Governor Networking and Upskilling—Coming in the Autumn
- Governor Hub and Governor Hub Knowledge (formerly The Key) a useful governance resource and how you access your Governance Meeting documents

Meet the Corporate Governance & Policy Team

We are here to support you and answer your governance queries

Contact us at: clerkingservices@nexusmat.org



Julie Westwood

Corporate
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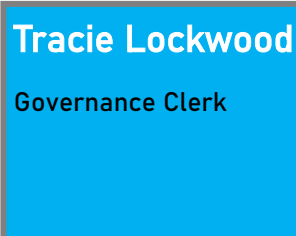
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