

Brooke Weston Academy Governors' Newsletter

Autumn 2017
Issue 1



Contents

- Looking Back 2016/2017
- Looking Forward 2017/2018
- Governor Profile
- Governor Spotlight

We're In Great Shape

GCSE results are UP

'A' level results are UP

6th Form numbers are UP

This newsletter is prepared primarily for parents and written by the eight school Governors of Brooke Weston Academy. Our hope is to encourage relationships between us and we will produce this newsletter annually, but maybe more if people like it. Please feedback to BWA.Governors@brookeweston.org

From all perspectives it's been quite a year: a new Associate Principal, a new senior management team, a theatre production, building a new website, new touch screens and an imminent new information management system arriving. All this with the backdrop of a £400,000 reduction in income. Given the challenges, it really is a case of 'hats off to everybody' as the Academy is in excellent shape with GCSE and A Level results the best in years, a full team of teachers, a 6th form at its highest level ever and a thriving Teaching School that's the envy of many surrounding counties.

- 28% of GCSE results were A* or A
- 89% of GCSEs taken were C or better
- 63% of A levels taken were A*, A or B

	2017	2016	National	Vs last year	Vs National
GCSE A* A / 9-7	28%	23%	20%	+5	+8
GCSE A* C / 9-4	89%	83%	66%	+6	+23
5A* - C inc. E/M	84%	77%	59%	+7	+25
A Level A* - B	63%	56%	-	+7	

Culture

The summer's production of Grease was the first school wide production for many years and what a sensation it was too.

More Please!



'Grease is the word...it's got groove, it's got meaning'

Looking Forwards 2017/2018

In Peter Kirkbride's speech at last month's Prize-giving, he spoke about Brooke Weston Academy's desire to **'Transform lives'** and to **'Provide an education that opens a lifetime of opportunities'**.

These are principles that we all buy into and they remain at the core of all that propels the mighty Brooke Weston ship. This academic year will see **all but three** GCSEs convert to the new 9-1 grading system and also see 'A' Levels move back to their linear format, i.e. one exam at the end of two years' study. It is excellent to see our sixth form in such good health. We have retained a record number of students into Year 12 and attracted a further 38 excellent students from surrounding schools bolstering our numbers to 155 - this is the highest it has been for years.



Year 12 numbers are the best they have been for years

In keeping with the other cultural improvements, the school will introduce a new enrichment programme in Year 7, with one lesson each week dedicated to this topic. This time is to encourage students to be creative, to leave the curriculum behind for a bit and discover their inner creativity.

Also, the Academy will focus on oracy and debating. It will take part in national competitions, thus developing an excellent life skill.

Objectives & Goals 2017/2018

The senior school management team create a plan each year with c.25 specific goals, some of which are new and some continue from previous years. Below are a sample to give you a flavour of what is discussed and planned:

1. Continue developing outstanding teaching practices
2. Test, collect and regularly analyse performance data
3. Encourage teachers to be innovative in their teaching style
4. Drive student oracy to raise student confidence
5. Have an outstanding sixth form
6. Get all students engaged in wider life of the Academy
7. Keep increasing and improving the use of technology
8. Staff are developed and feel valued
9. Increase student understanding of targets and data
10. Give consistent and valuable feedback to students
11. Develop the tutoring system to help drive and support pupils
12. Increase the Academy's contact with parents
13. Make more of wonderful displays throughout the Academy to promote achievement
14. Brooke Weston's values are visible and evident everywhere

Governors

There are eight of us. Our purpose is much the same as the board of a public company in that we check, challenge and support the activities and results of the day to day management team. We meet four times each academic year and our agenda is both 'fixed' and 'fluid'. Without fail, at each meeting, we will discuss: any child safeguarding issues, academic progress of each year group versus targets and any staffing issues. The rest of the meeting is largely dependent on the time of year.

In September's meeting, we concentrate on the summer's GCSE and A Level results, what went well, what hasn't and therefore what needs to be done to improve it.

In January's meeting, we analyse the various stakeholder surveys from staff, parents and students. Typically these surveys are valuable sources of feedback for us all and time is well spent discussing actions to reflect the feedback.

In May's meeting, we discuss the year group predictions versus targets, ahead of the upcoming exam period and any additional interventions to get every student to their maximum.

In November, we hold a strategy meeting where we discuss the broader three year ambitions of the Academy and the Teaching School.

Meet the Governors



Phil Harris-Bridge
Chair of Governors



Marcus Learoyd
(Deputy Chair of Governors)
Governor



Charles Amies
Parent Governor



Matthew Rodger
Staff Governor



Ika Částka
Governor



Leyton Smith
Governor



John Hill
Governor



Tony Segalini
Governor

Governor Spotlight - Tony Segalini

Tony Segalini joined the Brooke Weston Academy (BWA) Governing Board earlier in 2017. He brings extensive experience of Safeguarding from working in other secondary schools and academies in recent years and has taken on the role of Lead Governor for Safeguarding at BWA. Tony is employed by the Brooke Weston Trust and currently works at Kettering Science Academy.

Why did you choose a career in education?

Following a career as an Army officer, I felt a career in education would be a good move as I enjoyed instructing and working with people. I particularly wanted to help develop young people. How long have you been with the Brooke Weston Trust? When Corby Community College closed in 2008 to become Corby Business Academy (CBA), I joined the Brooke Weston Trust and took the role of Vice Principal at CBA until 2014 when I moved to Kettering Science Academy (KSA) as Senior Vice Principal.

What is your role in the Trust now?

I have just been appointed as Associate Principal at KSA and am enjoying the challenge immensely. It is my responsibility to lead the Academy, delivering the improvements that will to secure a "GOOD" rating from Ofsted at our next inspection, likely to occur in early 2019.

What do you look forward to when you go to work each day?

I look forward to working with our fantastic students and staff. I love KSA and really want to make a difference to the ambitions and life chances of each and every student in our care. I always relish the challenge.

What do you anticipate you will add as a member of the BWA Governing Board?

As a BWA Governor, I can add my 20 years of experience of school improvement. I am a behaviour and safety specialist and bring this knowledge and experience to the Governing Board. I look forward to working with existing Governors and the Leadership Team to help challenge and drive BWA forward.