

Chair's annual report 2022/23

As always it with pleasure that I present the Chair's annual report for the last academic year, 2022/3 for Sale High School. It was, on reflection, the beginning of a return to some normality at the School after 3 or 4 years of turbulence and disruption affecting all students and staff. We have, however, not seen the last of the results and impact of Covid as all children coming to the School this year (and it's a record number) have themselves experienced much disruption to their education as well as their social and emotional lives.

Governors at the School have always been impressed by the dedication and commitment of staff to ensuring every student achieves their ambitions. They always 'keep their eyes on the ball' no matter what is thrown at them and no matter what policy and priorities are handed to them from government. Unfortunately, these priorities still keep coming through at a fast pace! Despite that we all have a belief that the high quality of education and development and safekeeping of all our students will always be our main priorities along with equipping them for their next journey in life and work.

Governance has thankfully returned to face-to-face meetings throughout the year and it's been good to meet colleagues for genuine debate and decision making. We continue as governors to focus on the development of the School and here's a flavour of the topics we have debated and resolved

- Standards and quality of education within and across the School alongside priorities determined by external bodies.
- Safeguarding of students.
- Personal development of students, including mental health issues, careers and, unfortunately in some cases, disciplinary issues.
- High needs students and education/ health care plans.
- Current financial matters at the School.
- Estates issues at the School.
- Staffing matters.

That's just a flavour! In addition, Governors all have themed links at the School and meet the relevant senior member of staff on a regular basis to find out more about the School, keep themselves in touch and report back to the governing body on any issues.

One of the main events last year involved the retirement of both the Headteacher, Ms O'Grady and the Deputy Headteacher Mrs. Kath Chappell. It was a blow for us to lose so much experience, loyalty and talent and we wish them both all the very best for the future and thank them for their truly excellent service.

However, it's the role of the governors to recruit new senior staff and I'm extremely pleased to report that after a rigorous two day process of interviews, Adam Rogers, former Senior Vice Principal at the Manchester Academy was appointed as the Headteacher from September 2023 and we have two very experienced members of staff at the School Mrs. Louise Rainey and Mr. Jon Williams, who have been appointed as interim deputy heads for the coming academic year in 2023/4.

As alluded to above, the School continues to recruit record number of students. We now have well over a thousand students in the School. We acceded to the request from Trafford Local Authority, along with other High Schools, to recruit 30 extra students in year 7, as places are generally very tight across the Borough. This is a testament to the success of our School but at the same time places even more pressure on our School buildings and Estate. I have mentioned that in several Chair's reports previously and we debate it constantly at our Business Committee

However, there's now more than a glimmer of hope in that the Department of Education has conceded that there needs to be a complete refurbishment of our accommodation in the next few years. We are now on a DFE list in the second wave of refurbishment and await what that will exactly mean for the School. We are optimistic that after so long we will ultimately achieve high standards accommodation for our students and staff.

The end of the academic year concludes with the exam results for year 11. I attended the exam results day when students came to collect their certificates and there was much high-spirited behaviour, as one would expect! It is extremely pleasing for everyone associated with the School that our results are much improved overall and in many subjects and areas are well ahead of national results and trends. This is a testament to everyone for their hard work, high level of student attendance at School in the last year and total dedication by all staff, whether teachers, managers or business staff who have pulled together to make it such a brilliant end to the year.

We wish all our students good fortune in their next ventures, whether in further education, other schools, work or training and once again my thanks on behalf of all governors to staff and students alike. If you have left, don't forget us and hope you will always remember your experience at Sale High School.

Graham Luccock

Chair Sale High School Governing Body