



CEO Report

The Gryphon Multi-Academy Trust

Alan O'Sullivan | 11th December 2018

Direction

Since our last meeting both schools have had visits, Eaglewood from the DfE and Arnewood from OFSTED. I am pleased to say that both have produced results which reflect well on the schools and the trust. This is not only good for the pupils outcomes but can only boost the morale of the staff even higher following a challenging year last year.

Trust Membership

We are mindful of any opportunities that might arise and are always on the lookout for appropriate partners. We are also encouraging closer liaison between our feeder schools and our schools which could lead to more partnership working and collaboration in future projects.

Eaglewood

I am pleased to say that we have now secured Nigel Himmel as headteacher and he will officially take up his post on 1st January 2019. Next will be the selection for the position of deputy head which will be arranged soon. I am also pleased to report that David Richards as the new Chair of Governors has established a new governing body which is functioning well. We had another visit from Sue Phillips of the DfE and she was generally pleased with the continuing improvements that have been made at the school. She would like to see improvements in some subjects and also in management reporting. Nigel and his team have shown tremendous commitment over the last year and deserve a pat on the back. The building is coming on and hopefully will be finished before the summer break.

Arnewood

We had an OFSTED visit at Arnewood, which was a two day intensive inspection which resulted in us receiving a “Good” with the sixth form getting a splendid “Outstanding”. Areas for development include progress for disadvantaged and PP students, literacy across the curriculum and attendance, all of which we demonstrated as being addressed. Congratulations to Nigel and the staff for a superb result of which they can be proud.

DfE Visit

Elizabeth and I visited Maria Dawes, Deputy Director Regional Schools Commission, in central London on 21st November. This was a reflective look over the last year and a chance to exchange views. They were pleased with Arnewood’s results but wanted to see improvement in disadvantaged pupils progress. They also acknowledged the improvements at Eaglewood and Sue Phillips report. They made some suggestions as to the Members and Directors Boards makeup and we have taken that on board and I have attached the suggested way forward with the agreement of those affected. There are more details further in my report. They also require us to have six meetings a year and we have arranged for the following additional two dates; 12/2/19 and 21/05/19

Support Services

I am pleased to say that we have a very able new Facilities Manager, Mr Ian Walker, who has taken on all the projects and the running of the Trust’s sites in his stride. Simon Davies has left us to take up the post of caretaking manager at New Milton Junior School and I am pleased to say that we have retained Gerald Crabb who worked for us in the summer as his replacement. We have also renegotiated Mr Windebank’s contract and tied it in so that we now have a tenancy agreement on the caretakers house.

Website

We had a blip during the summer when we found it was possible to bypass the password and read our documents. This has now been resolved and all the papers for this meeting and the last two are now available to read or download from the trust website.

Projects

The Scola project is nearing completion and hopefully we will have full possession for the new year. We now have spanking new modern shower rooms as well as new windows in the hall and gym. We have put in another bid for the Rosla building to be upgraded, which we failed to get last time, and if successful could be started in the spring. The Eaglewood building is progressing nicely with completion expected to be around the end of summer term.

Directors

Nigel Pressnell and I, as employees, will come off the board as recommended by the Deputy RSC. This will leave us with some vacancies on the board and it is on the agenda for Malcolm Walker and Keith Craze to fill two of those spaces. Malcolm's experience of working for the DfE in the past will be of benefit to the trust and Keith's career as a Human Resources consultant will fill a gap in our board skills. We are also looking for one more director and would welcome any recommendations you may have bearing in mind gender balance.

Looking Forward

After the close scrutiny of both schools in the last year by the DfE, which has put pressure on the staff, there is now an air of optimism that has been endorsed by Ofsted at Arnewood and the appointment of Nigel Himmel as headteacher at Eaglewood. We look forward to this period of stability and for the improvement of the environment to be completed soon giving staff a more settled place of work. Both schools are now working closely together and are also in collaboration with our feeder schools over transition years, which can only enhance our ethos of working together, shaping tomorrow.

The Gryphon Trust

Members

Mr John Evans
Mr Mac Hall
Mr Bryan Maugham(Chair)

Directors

Mr Mark Byrne
Mrs Elizabeth Cook(Chair)
Mr Dominic Coburn
Cllr Keith Craze
Mr Bryan Maugham
Prof David Richards
Mr Roy Wilkins
Mr Malcolm Walker

ALGB

CEO

ELGB

Mr Nigel Pressnell

Cllr Alan O'Sullivan

Mr Nigel Himmel

Mrs Jo Ankers
Cllr Goff Beck
Mrs Elizabeth Cook(Chair)
Mrs Jo Corrigan
Mr Steve Jaggar
Mr Bryan Maugham
Mrs Becky Rolfe
Mr Roy Wilkins
Mrs Christa Lippold

Mrs Val Woods(Secretary)

Mr Paul Brown
Mr Richard Catton
Prof David Richards(Chair)
Dr Emma Stack
Mrs Melanie Strachan
Mrs Claire Whitlock

Mrs Sarah Gray(Secretary)