



Local Academy Committee Newsletter

July 2022

Be the best you can be; together we grow from acorns to oaks, flourishing in God's love.

A new creation

You might have noticed that you'll struggle to find an inspection report for Bream C of E Primary school if you search the Ofsted website. Don't worry, we're not hiding anything from you. This is because, following an inspection that put the school into special measures in 2019, the old school was effectively closed and a new one opened as a sponsored academy as part of the Severn Federation Academy Trust. So, whilst we are the on the same site and as part of the same community, we have a fresh slate – we are a new creation. Bream became an academy in February 2021 and we have around three years from that date before we can expect another Ofsted inspection. School leaders and staff, the Trust, and the Local Academy Committee are all working hard to ensure that Bream is a 'Good' school for all the children who attend. We are fortunate to have the support of an Ofsted inspector who regularly visits the school to check our progress and advise on how we can further improve. These visits are invaluable, and feedback on our development so far has been very positive.

The school also continues to benefit from the support of the Trust and the Local Academy Committee is very pleased to be able to inform parents that the school will shortly be recruiting an additional teacher so that from September 2022 there will be seven classes at Bream school, which is one for each year group. The Committee is very thankful to the Severn Federation Academy Trust for investing in the school in this way when currently the number of pupils in the school does not support seven classes. We are confident that this will really help drive school improvement further and would like to thank Mrs Brice for her efforts to bring this about.

Parent Governor elections

The Local Academy Committee has a vacancy for a parent governor. The purpose of the LAC is to maintain strong oversight of the educational standards and Christian ethos of the school. Duties include monitoring the standards and progress of pupils attending the Academy, monitoring and promoting the links between the Academy and the local parish, parents and local community, ensuring that there are effective procedures in place within the Academy regarding pupil support, attendance and discipline, and monitoring the Christian distinctiveness of the Academy.

Parent governors must be a parent of, or have parental/guardianship responsibility for, a pupil at the school at the time when he or she is elected. We will be holding an election for a new parent governor

at the beginning of the new school year. Being a school committee member is a rewarding experience, giving you the opportunity to give back and make a difference to the children in the school. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor and would like to know more about what is involved, please contact Lorna Theophilus, Chair of the LAC, on ltheophilusACM@bream.gloucs.sch.uk.

Results of the Parent Survey

As you'll recall the Local Academy Committee ran a parent survey over Easter; thank you to everyone who took the time to complete it. We had a great response with parents and carers from around a quarter of our families completing the questionnaire. The results of the survey were also very encouraging with 100% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that their child is happy in Bream school. All parents

also said their child or children enjoyed learning at Bream school and felt safe. All parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is encouraged to work to the best of his/her ability and enjoy a good range of subjects. The good news goes on with all respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that the school is well led and managed and that they are happy with the school. All parents and carers also felt that the school expects good behaviour from pupils and supports children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

"Staff are so supportive of children's individual needs which is great. Very friendly and knowledgeable staff, who tailor their deliverance of lessons to suit needs of individual children"

Parent comment

100% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that their child is happy in Bream school

There were areas of improvement however, with 40% of parents disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that the school lets them know what their child will be learning through the year. This has already been addressed and all parents and carers were emailed a curriculum map at the beginning of May explaining what their child's year group would be learning in the summer term. One parent also highlighted the lack of a PTA at Bream school. This is also in hand with an initial meeting being held with interested parents and carers in June. Hopefully, with support from school leaders and the Local Academy Committee, the

Friends of Bream Primary School will be re-established in time for the new academic year.

New Policies

The Local Academy Committee has recently adopted updated policies on Attendance, Behaviour and Spirituality. All school level policies can be found on the school website here, along with a link the Trust level policies: <https://bream-church-of-england-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/policies/>.

Introducing our new Community Representative

We are really pleased to welcome David Child as a community representative on the Local Academy Board. David is a science teacher at Dean Academy and brings with him 15 years of governor experience. Here he tells us a bit more about himself:



Having developed a successful career in Engineering, based in the Forest of Dean and world-wide, I moved into education at the age of thirty-nine, having been advised to stop travelling and get a less stressful role! As a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, Science was the obvious choice with a specialism in Physics. A PGCE course was rapidly followed by obtaining NPQH using the managerial skills developed in industry as a platform. A subsequent focus on equality of access has led to securing further qualifications that allow me to undertake all aspects of psychometric testing needed to assess students of all ages for Access Arrangements in formal exams and assessments.

In the twenty years of working in secondary education, I have worked in one location in Lydney – but at a variety of schools! I started at a ‘Good’ school called Whitecross. It was here that I was in charge of the school’s Specialist Status in Engineering. This school was over-subscribed, and it was at this point that I first became a Staff-Governor. Whitecross School was put into ‘Special Measures’ by Ofsted and immediately transformed into The Dean Academy under the guidance of Prospects. Prospects then exited the role of leading a Trust and we were taken over by The Athelstan Trust – starting a long process of transition to our current ‘Good’ status with a rising number of students. I have been a Staff-Governor throughout and experienced the highs and lows of the process. I am pleased to say that I am still at the same location in a totally different School! I hope to offer the Local Academy Committee some insight, through experience, to help navigate Bream school back to ‘Good’.

If you have any feedback on this newsletter please contact Lorna Theophilus, Chair of the LAC on ltheophilusACM@bream.gloucs.sch.uk.