

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers

I try to stick to 2 rules for writing the Governor's Newsletter - keep it short and keep it interesting. You can be the judge of rule 2, but rule 1 is proving harder than normal this term, as I struggle to include everything I'd like to after another amazing year.

In fact, in a delightful, if slightly contrived, way, it's inclusion that I'm going to write about. You will often see it mentioned as a school priority, and it's great to see those who run education taking it seriously too. Ofsted are very keen to see evidence of it, and our drive to ensure the inclusion of all students was given as an important factor in our very recent Gold PE award (and what an amazing achievement - one of only a dozen school's nationwide to be awarded a Distinction - for a school with no playing field!). Our dedication to getting all pupils involved in fantastic events such as last weekend's SPLAT festival is another example of how inclusion is at the very top of our priorities – and what a wonderful day that was.

Why are we all so committed to ensuring inclusion? To put it simply, it's only fair and it has always been part of the ethos of Clapham Terrace. We want every single child leaving Clapham to have the maximum possible opportunities available to them in the next phase of their life. Reaching their full potential in learning opens the door to academic opportunities; experiencing challenging new activities at Marle Hall increases confidence and resilience; visiting fascinating places on school trips can spark a lifelong interest and playing in a school sports team teaches many things - not just teamwork and athletic skills, but how to cope with winning and (occasionally!) losing with grace and sporting conduct. All of these opportunities must be an integral part of every pupil's time at Clapham Terrace.

To ensure this, the whole school, the Head, the teachers, the TA's and all the support staff, work every day to ensure any obstacles to inclusion, whether they be financial, personal or merely due to a lack of confidence, are overcome. The Governors stand 100% behind them - it's one of the many factors that we believe makes our school so special.

The Governing Body continues to change. Jo Lally and Helen Twist joined us after their election, and as her 4-year Parent Governor term comes to an end, I'm delighted that Anna Bayman has agreed to stand for re-election. If you'd like to put yourself forward as a Governor, please see the school office before the end of the first week of September for details. My thanks to all the Governors for their hard work this year.

Enjoy your summer holidays, wherever they take you. For those who are moving on from Clapham, we wish you all the best and hope you take many happy memories with you. For those returning in September - see you in the autumn! As always, there will be changes to the school environment for you to admire...

Yours,
Dan Johnston, Chair of Governors
Summer 2019