

# Academy Council Update

## Message from Linda Tanner, chair of Wallscourt Farm Academy Council

Academy Council members are all delighted that the unique features of Wallscourt Farm are being maintained and strengthened as the school grows. Some of us spent a day in the academy last term and saw fantastic work going on in all year groups as the fourth year of WFA - and the start of Key Stage 2 - got under way. It is so lovely to be immersed in the learning in Acer immediately on arrival at the school.

The council's role is to support and challenge Miss Weaver and the staff team to make sure all children get the highest quality of education and care. Over the past year, we have been involved in the successful Ofsted inspection and the recruitment of more excellent members of staff. We meet five or six times a year, spending several hours listening to reports and looking at data. Cake usually sustains us, although at the last one it was snaffled by Noodle! We also undertake learning walks and come along to meet children, parents and staff at events such as the Christmas performances and the summer fair. I have had the privilege of showing many visitors around the school - you will not be surprised to hear that they are all bowled over by the provision we have here.

Academy councillors take part in training offered by the Cabot Learning Federation in areas such as health and safety, child protection and curriculum updates. We welcome the opportunity to meet and learn from our counterparts from other academies. I represent WFA at the CLF and am struck by the power that working together provides.

Addressing the CLF summer conference, Regional Schools Commissioner Rebecca Clark spoke about how we should all be prepared for 'the tap on the shoulder' when we are asked to take on something we had not been expecting. Some of our staff have had that moment as Miss Weaver prepares for her maternity leave. We have every confidence that they will step up with huge success. We also have our first vacancy on the AC. One of our sponsor councillors, Dave Morgan, from the MoD, who gave a valuable external perspective to the council and made a strong contribution, has left to work abroad. If you know anyone in your workplace or networks who might be interested in taking his place, do tap them on the shoulder.

Finally, thanks to all families and friends of the school for your support; thanks to the whole staff team for your amazing work; and all good wishes to Miss Weaver for the exciting time she has ahead!

## 2016-17 Calendar

September 2016	Academy Council Meeting
October 2016	CLF Board AC Training – Safeguarding Autumn Conference Immersion Day Academy Council Meeting
November 2016	AC Training – Pupil Premium AC Training - Exclusions
January 2017	Academy Council Meeting
February 2017	Academy Council Meeting AC Training – Data
March 2017	Learning Walk AC Training – What to Look for
June 2017	Academy Council Meeting
July 2017	AC Summer Conference

## Progress Update

As well as updates on health and safety, finance and staffing and leadership the council reviews pupil progress. 2015/16 data shows the Early years maintaining their previous high levels across all areas and have significantly reduced both the gender and pupil premium gaps.

KS1 sats results were also encouraging, scores being in line with averages across

Bristol and excelling in Mathematics.

This year the council meeting are also receiving presentations from the teams at WFA and the last meeting was the turn of the Literacy and Communications Team, who took us through the various programs and

levels of literacy teaching going on at the school including the reading recovery plan, it showcased all the levels of outstanding practice.

We are one of seven schools in Bristol to achieve the 'Every Child a Reader award', a wonderful achievement and recognition for the hard

work of the teaching team here at Wallscourt Farm Academy.



If you have any feedback, queries or questions on this update or in general, please speak to Nathan or Sarah or send us an email;

email: [parent.council@wfa.cabot.ac.uk](mailto:parent.council@wfa.cabot.ac.uk)

# Academy Council Update

## Wallscourt Farm Academy Council

There are 11 members of the Wallscourt Farm Academy Council in total. As well as Susie Weaver (Principal), Sue Kelham (Early Years Lead Teacher), Jackie Holbrook (Support Staff Representative) the council consists of the following representatives;

Member	Linda Tanner	Sue Hughes	Philip Walker	Trevor Jones	Paul Spencer	Dave Morgan	Nathan Leigh	Sarah Cox
								
Role	Chair	Education Lead	Finance Lead	Site and H&S Lead	Community Leads		Families Lead	Families Lead
Strategic focus:	Overall Academy Council Strategy, Compliance and Operations	Educational opportunities and development focus	Financial viability and development focus	H&S and Site development focus	Community development focus		Academy community- families at WFA Focus	Academy community- families at WFA Focus

## Immersion Day

The October Immersion day saw a number of the Academy Council members involved in observing within the different teams at Wallscourt Farm Academy. We joined classes in all 4 year groups and the staff meetings for the 3 areas, 'STEAM (Science, Art and Mathematics)', 'Literacy and Communication' and 'Myself and the world around me'.

We were witness to some amazing learning, fantastic attitudes and ethos across the school and it was good to add something to the ongoing work within these areas.

## Parking Update

We know that Parking at drop off and pick up times continues to be a major issue and it's still a focus of the Academy Council.

Trevor Jones, whose role is Site H&S Lead, has arranged for a Traffic Regulation Order which will see the parking areas, directly outside of the school, restricted to 2 hrs with no return within 4 hours between 06:00-20:00. The Traffic Order also contains provision for disabled badge holders. The Traffic Order has been approved, so we are just waiting for the works to introduce road signs and restrictions.

We hope to bring you news on this soon, but in the meantime, please park safely, considerately and within the law.

## Newsbytes

**Future Leaders** – The future leaders have been coming with more ideas including the desire to do more science, to have more displays of artwork and a call for resources in the garden areas in the front play area.

**Green Ambassadors** – Have also met and have plans for more recycling and links with the local woodland group Splatts.

**Attendance** – The target for attendance is 96.1% in line with national targets and three weeks into the autumn term we were hitting 95.3%. As always there is ongoing focus to promote these high levels of attendance.

**CCA and the Council** – There are plans afoot for the council and the CCA to connect further and for representatives to join of each groups meeting on occasion to help maintain those links.