

From the chair of governors

Report to Town Councils

Archbishop Sancroft High School is an OFSTED rated GOOD school. Academic achievement is good and students thrive.

Changes in curriculum, finance funding and political pressures at Archbishop Sancroft High school, now make the school day almost unrecognisable by students who will have attended the school five years ago.

We are firstly a Church of England Secondary school, but also, and importantly, a Community school. In practice this means that we must meet the needs of students from all walks of life. Governors recognise the importance of providing a broad based curriculum. We are aware that many of our students will go on to university although some will not be able, or want to. It is therefore incumbent on us to ensure that the education provision enables us to deliver our Vision - "From Ashs to anywhere". This is the measure of our success, that when young people leave Ashs they should be able to do the things that they really want to.

Government policy has a key focus on Maths and English. When assessing the school's performance OFSTED will look at the progress students have made in eight GCSE subjects. Maths and English count for double points. So the question Governors always ask when the budget is restricted is, do we sacrifice "low rated" subjects in order to satisfy the inspecting authority, and thence league tables. May be we should forget about those subject areas such as Music, Drama and Art, which appear not to be valued by National policy makers. Some schools have already abandoned them. However, this flies in the face of the facts, in that one of the UKs biggest exports and money earners is the arts - film, TV, Art, Music.

The Church of England is still responsible for educating more children and young people than anyone else - Nigel Gender Chief Education Officer - Church of England Education Office writes

"In our rapidly changing world, children and young people need an education which enables them to grow in character and be inspired in the service of others.

Britain has just triggered Brexit and President Donald Trump has signed an executive order rolling back rules aimed at curbing climate change.

In this complex world, these different events remind me how vital it is that our schools, even with all the pressures on budgets, continue to be places where the children we serve are given the opportunity to grow in wisdom, knowledge

and skills, have hope and aspiration and learn to live well together with dignity and respect."

This view is totally shared by the Governors and Senior Leadership Team at Archbishop Sancroft, and we will do everything we can to maintain a curriculum that allows everyone to thrive.

Governors would like to thank the Councils and wider community for their continued support and enthusiasm for Archbishop Sancroft High School.

Archbishop Sancroft High School is a Good school.

Alan Thorp - Chair of Governors.