

The Governing Body of Two Waters School



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Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mr Gately, Miss Shay, the School Leadership Team and all of the staff for being rated as outstanding by the school's Improvement Partner at the recent Joint Annual Review (JARV) meeting. In addition to the staff, this assessment also demonstrates that pupils work hard and are engaged with the curriculum, and that they are encouraged and well supported by their parents. This is a huge achievement for the whole school. The Governing Body regularly scrutinises the schools performance information which has been consistently good over a long period of time and this JARV assessment as outstanding validates that.

Secondly, I wanted to update parents about school expansion. As an outstanding school, Two Waters will continue to be a first choice school for many families. The development of the Aspen Park Estate over recent years has resulted in the catchment area for the school decreasing year on year making it harder to obtain a place at the school than ever before. In mid-2017 the Governing Body made enquiries with the Hertfordshire County Council about the possibility of the school expanding to meet demand. Two Waters are a maintained school and, as such, the County Council are the organisation responsible for assessing the demand for school places and ensuring that there is sufficient provision – this includes making decisions about which schools may be able to expand either on a temporary or permanent basis. In response to the enquiry, the County Council advised that some expansions had recently been implemented at schools in Hemel Hempstead to meet increasing demand including the permanent expansion of South Hill School. They also acknowledged that their demand pressures in the South East Hemel Hempstead area (which includes the Two Waters and Nash Mills geographic areas) and, in response to the pressures, they would implement a temporary expansion of Belswains Primary School. They went on to say that there are currently no proposals for permanent expansion at primary schools in Hemel Hempstead, but that they also recognised the level of development in the south of the town and, as such, would continue to monitor the demand. The County Council also advised that they had undertaken an initial high level assessment for Two Waters Primary School and had concluded that delivering permanent expansion would be difficult due to its site constraints, in particular its size. In relation to the land to the North East of the school site (facing downhill from the outdoor classroom and on the new road of Harrier Close), it is my understanding that this land is not in the ownership of the school or the County Council and forms part of the approved planning application for the wider Aspen Park development and so will be used for residential development.

Finally, I wanted to update on the work of the Governing Body. The Full Governing Body, Curricular Committee and Non-Curricular Committee we continue to:

- monitor the delivery of the School Development Plan;
- review academic performance;
- receive updates from subject leads on specific curriculum areas;
- undertake class visits;
- oversee staffing;
- monitor the schools finances; and
- ensure that appropriate health & safety and safeguarding arrangements are in place.

In addition, we are working with the School Leadership Team to develop a longer-term strategic plan focussing on:

- national government educational policy direction;
- longer term financial planning;
- staffing, leadership and management; and
- developing an Asset Management Plan.

Outcomes from this work will be reported to the Governing Body in due course and will ensure that the school is well managed so that the staff can continue to focus on teaching and learning.

Best wishes,

Andrew Charlwood
Chair of Governors