



Thringstone Primary School

Believe and Achieve Together

Trustee Newsletter Autumn 2025

Who we are

The Board of Trustees is made up of 8 governors including , 2 Parent Trustees, 1 Member Appointed Trustee and Co-opted Governors (typically members of the local community). We have recently elected a new Vice Chair Thomas Ford, following Gemma Patel's resignation from the board. Gemma has served as a Trustee for over 8 years, she had a huge part to play in writing our strategic plan and designing our current school logo. Dian Bull also resigned from her role as co-opted trustee, Diane continues her role as a Member of the Academy.

Termly Review

Last academic year was a very successful one for our school, and we are fortunate to have such a committed community and team of staff who are all seeking the best for the children who attend our school. Our recent 'Book Fair' brought the whole school community together to share the love of reading. Thank you for your support with that. Our Panda class recently enjoyed a Sports Partnership event, along with other schools in our area.

Children took part in a successful Arts festival, which was held at The Castle Rock School. This event was organised by a teacher from Newbridge High School and was ran in collaboration with The Castle Rock School. It was brilliant to see our local schools come together to celebrate The Arts.

As Trustees our role is to act as 'critical friends' and make strategic decisions as a group, whilst the operational management of the schools remains the responsibility of the school leadership team. We meet both as a full Trust Board and in school subcommittees each term, watching the performance of the school closely. It is evident that our school benefits enormously from working in partnership and we are watching local and national developments closely to make sure that we can continue to retain the autonomy and local accountability that have supported our successes.

At the start of this term we welcomed Mr Swales as our new Headteacher, we look forward to working with Mr Swales and the wider staff team, to continue to drive the school forward.

We hope that this newsletter helps you better understand our work but please also follow our school on Facebook or take a look at our updated school websites to see the breadth of what we do. Thank you for your support in making sure that our school continues to be such a success.

Trustee Recruitment

We have recently welcomed two new Parent Trustees to the board; Lucianne Powell and Damian Paine. Both bring a wealth of experience to our board. To find out more about each of our Trustees,

please visit our website.

What have we been talking about

This term, the Board has met as a full team, there have been sub-committee meetings for Finance and Audit. Trustees have discussed key local issues including the falling roll concern in our county and national changes to the Ofsted framework. Trustees reviewed end of year outcomes, looked at staff development, learnt about curriculum development, and looked at key financial documents including how the schools spend the pupil premium and sports funding budgets. Trustees review a range of reports including the School Development Plan, and those from the Local Authority and the Department of Education to inform their understanding of how the school is performing against national targets.

The school is also working with Nottingham Net Zero Hub, to upgrade our school boilers to a more sustainable model.

Trustee visit Monitoring

Trustees have agreed this years monitoring schedule. We have already begun our monitoring in key areas including; Art and Design, French and SEND.

Outstanding Achievements

In the Summer term of each year, Year 6 children take their standard assessment tests (SATs) in reading, grammar and mathematics and writing skills. End of key stage assessments are compared to other schools in England and published nationally as an indicator of relative performance. We are particularly proud of how well children from disadvantaged backgrounds do compared to other pupils in England. These measures are an important recognition of the hard work of children and staff, but also show that having a rich and exciting curriculum, alongside high expectations and great teaching, make a real difference to how well children do with these crucial reading, writing and mathematics skills. As Trustees we are committed to ensuring that this rich curriculum remains an integral feature of our school.

On behalf of the Trustees, I wish you a wonderful half term break
Sarah Baxter
Chair of Trustees