



Dear Governor,

Another academic year has passed at Brooke Weston Trust which has, again, seen its fair share of Ofsted inspections, audits, examinations and extra-curricular activities – all of which, in one way or another, have required the support, challenge and aspiration to improve that characterises our local governing bodies.

I would also like to congratulate those who have been elected as Chairs of Governors for four of our governing bodies: Michelle Duffy (CBA), Mark Gilding (Oakley Vale), David Bailey (TCA) and Stephen Prati (Beanfield). I look forward to working with them in the forthcoming academic year.

Whilst we await responses from the DfE on our proposals to expand CTS and split KSA into two standalone schools, work continues to support the bid submitted by Kingsley Special School and the Maplefields Teaching School Alliance for the proposed Special Free School in Corby. We will keep you updated on progress with the bid.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all again for the support you continue to provide to our senior leaders. I hope you all have a well-deserved summer break.☺

DR ANDREW CAMPBELL
BROOKE WESTON TRUST

BWA Chair of Governors is designated as a National Leader of Governance



Brooke Weston Academy's Chair of Governors, Phil Harris-Bridge has been designated a National Leader of Governance

This new role, which has been accredited by the National College for Teaching and Leadership, means he will be called upon to advise and support his opposite number in other schools across the region.

Mr Harris-Bridge has been a school governor for 24 years, a governor at Brooke Weston for the past eight years and a member of the Brooke Weston Trust Board.

He also sits as a non-executive director on other boards, including at Kettering General Hospital, therefore has extensive experience of strategic leadership and working as part of a senior team.

He said: "Over recent years, the need for improved governance has been a growing requirement, concerning the responsibilities and roles of governing bodies, how they conduct their business and hold the Principal and senior leadership team to account, not only for the performance, but also the strategy of the school. The National Leaders in Governance Scheme recognises that if we want

really effective Local Governing Bodies, we need a mechanism, not just to train governors but to help them to be effective."

The NLG scheme was introduced four years ago, with the aim to help schools that either feel they need some assistance or for those instructed to have some support.

Mr Harris-Bridge added: "I relish the opportunity to be able to observe and suggest improvements, whether it is the way the agenda of the governing body is structured, being effective as a chair, the relationship between the Principal and governing body, the performance data, the degree of challenge and support expected during a meeting.

"The opportunity is there to go into other schools and academies and see what they do, identify things that need improving and also pick up the things that are great but which we don't necessarily do at the moment and share them back here for the benefit of the Trust. It is part of the opportunity that being a NLG represents."

Mark Gilding, new chair of governors at Oakley Vale

Why did you choose to take on a governors role?

I have three children at the school ranging from reception to year six and I have always had an interest in their education and education in general. I also feel that a school is much stronger and can perform at its best when there is committed involvement from all areas of the community that the school is in.

What do you see as your main role as chair of governors?

I understand that governors play a significant role in school improvement and leading the governing body in this is my main role. Developing the strengths and skills of our governing body is important so that we can act as a critical friend. The role of chair is often pivotal in the relationship between the governors and the principal and there are obviously statutory requirements and regulations to ensure that we meet.

What skills do you think are needed to become an effective governor?

It is important to ask the obvious question. Running my own business in the art world meant that when I first became a governor I was often lost amongst acronyms and data sheets. Effective governors can openly discuss both positive and negative issues when they have the ability to interpret the information and reports provided. It is not really a skill but governors need time available - there is no better way to get to know your school than visiting and seeing what is happening.

What work have you undertaken so far?

As a recently appointed chair of governors I am just embarking on completing the governor skills audit which will be particularly useful in appointing governors in the near future. We have recently held an Ofsted feedback evening for the school to include everyone in what is happening. Along with the principal we are creating a community forum, including parents and other community members which will meet regularly to discuss ideas and feedback to the school.

What ways can governors help shape a school?

I think that a school is at its strongest when it involves all members of the community and governors can be directly involved in the ethos and direction of the school.

New Ofsted inspection framework to come into effect from September

Following its consultation earlier this year, Ofsted has released its new inspection handbook and framework which will come into effect from September 2015.



The significant changes are:

1 Common inspection framework: the change aligns inspection across early years settings, maintained schools and academies, non-association independent schools and further education and skills providers.

While each remit will continue to have an individual inspection handbook which applies the principles of the common framework, the change is designed to provide consistency and comparability across Ofsted's education inspections.

2 Short inspections for 'good' schools: from September, schools that were judged 'good' at their most recent inspection will receive a short inspection approximately every three years.

Inspectors carrying out short inspections will start from the assumption that the school or provider remains good, and will only make judgements on whether this is the case and whether safeguarding is effective. Where the inspectors believe the school may no longer be 'good' (either due to improvement or decline), these will be converted into full inspections.

3 Changes to the inspector workforce: Ofsted will contract directly with inspectors (rather than outsourcing) and bring training and quality assurance in-house. The majority of Ofsted Inspectors will be current leaders of 'good' and 'outstanding' education providers.

4 The headings under which Ofsted will report are:

- Overall effectiveness
- Effectiveness of leadership and management
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare
- Outcomes for pupils

Ofsted has produced a short guide to the new framework: The Future of Education Inspection: Understanding the changes. This will be available under the Governor's Area of the BWT website.

At an event launching the new handbook and framework, HMCI Sir Michael Wilshaw said that: 'short inspections will reduce the burden of inspection without losing the rigour which parents and the public rightly expect of Ofsted.' Sir Michael said that he thought there should be more 'maverick' headteachers who are willing to try new approaches in the best interests of the children. He outlined plans to recognise 'exceptional leaders'; from September, when inspectors identify a headteacher who has played a key role in turning around other institutions, Ofsted will send a letter to them acknowledging their leadership as exceptional. A copy of this letter will go to the Secretary of State and Ofsted's Annual Report will also feature those leaders who have been recognised in this way.



Historic Day for the Brooke Weston Trust

July 15th was a historic day for the Trust with two fantastic events taking place for the first time.

The day saw the inaugural BWT Combined Cadet Force Passing Out Parade, with 20 students being given their BWT CCF berets to mark our independence and in the evening 150 musical students from across our secondary schools performed at a professional theatre in the first ever BWT Music Concert.

The BWT CCF was formed in September 2014 and throughout the academic year we have been working in partnership with the long established Oundle School CCF.

Our CCF was set up as part of the government's Cadet Expansion Programme, which aims to create an additional 100 CCFs within state schools.

Throughout the academic year the 20 students, from Brooke Weston Academy, Corby Business Academy, Thomas Clarkson Academy and Kettering Science Academy, have been involved in drill, field craft and navigation activities. The year was rounded off with an annual camp at the British Army's Barry Buddon Training Camp in Carnoustie, Scotland, with cadets taking part in a 36-hour field exercise.

Estates and Facilities Director Matt Isherwood has set the BWT CCF up as Contingent

Commander and been supported by other staff volunteers.

Second Lieutenant Isherwood said: "My fellow officers and I are extremely proud of the progress that our Cadets have made since September last year. The last week of our term provided the perfect opportunity for this inaugural generation of Brooke Weston Cadets, to hold their first formal independent parade. The finale to the parade included a 'passing out' ceremony, where the Cadets returned their Oundle School CCF beret in exchange for the beret and cap badge of our affiliated regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment."



Music Concert

A sell out theatre of 450 people was wowed by our young student musicians at the first ever BWT Music Concert.

Talented musicians from all five of our secondary schools gathered together to form a combined band and choir as part of the Music for Stage and Screen Concert.

They performed classic songs such as Putting On the Ritz and I've Got Rhythm as well as some more recent songs from Disney shows and popular culture.

There were also solo performances from four students and professional cornet player Ben Godfrey was the Guest Soloist.

The event was coordinated by Clive Wears, Music Director from Corby Business Academy, along with music staff from the other Trust schools.



CEO Andrew Campbell said: "At a time when the curriculum offer in many secondary schools is under so much pressure, events like this provide a strong reminder of the vital place for the arts in education. A place that must be protected and nurtured, both for the good of the spirit and as a powerful force for community."

Kirsty Smith appointed as the Trust's Director of Sport



Miss Smith, who is a PE teacher at Thomas Clarkson Academy, takes up this new role for the Trust from September. The position has been created to help take

the PE departments across the Trust to 'outstanding'. The Trust also intends to create a bespoke, inclusive BWT physical activity and sport offering for all pupils to develop positive skills, attitudes and attributes.

Chief Executive Officer Andrew Campbell said: "We have an ambition that BWT becomes known nationally for the quality of its PE and sport vision and provision. The post is a new position and our hope is that it will evolve as the strategy starts to show impact."

Miss Smith will lead the development of a new BWT PE and Sport strategy.

The teacher has much experience, currently acting as School Sports Coordinator for the Thomas Clarkson Academy School Sports Programme, which delivers training and coaching to some primary schools in Wisbech as part of a drive to increase sports participation at primary level.

This spring she also organised an event with the Rugby Football Union which saw 200 girls from across Wisbech gather together to be coached and play rugby.

Top Apprenticeship for Lauren

Lauren Leer, a Year 13 student from Brooke Weston, has been offered her dream apprenticeship at Jaguar Land Rover, two years after setting her sights on the opportunity. As well as studying for an Engineering degree and a higher level NVQ she will work at the company's sites learning about the design and manufacture process. The six-year apprenticeship could lead to a lifetime's career with the prestigious car company.

She said: 'I saw details of the apprenticeship when I was at an Engineering Fair in Year 11 and, since then, it has been my goal to work there. They will pay for my tuition fees and a salary as well. I will be based at Warwick University where I will do my applied engineering degree and in the holidays I will work onsite in the West Midlands. I will also work towards an NVQ level 4 in Engineering as well and will be studying at the same time as getting hands-on experience. It is a really exciting opportunity.'



Staff Win Top Education Awards

Three staff members from CBA have been recognised as heroes of education. Librarian Amy McKay and Assistant Librarian Christina Mangin won the Unsung Hero Award at the 2015 Northamptonshire Education Awards and Learning Support Assistant Richard White was a finalist in the Inspirational Teaching of the Year category. All three received certificates and Amy and Christina were also presented with glass trophies at a special presentation evening at Wicksteed Pavilion in Kettering.

Amy said: "The Education Awards was a celebration of all the fantastic things that happen in schools around the county and it was lovely to be there representing CBA. "We never expected to win but we try to

always go the extra mile and it's fantastic to know that is appreciated."

Christina added: "We are in a school that supports libraries and we have supportive students and staff."

Northamptonshire Newspapers' Communities Content Editor Neil Pickford hosted the event. He said: "Amy and Christina are true unsung heroes.

"Just some of the things they have achieved are launching an international book club, running an annual chess tournament and setting up an online library catalogue. Their ongoing commitment to the students is incredible."



CBA Assistant Librarian Christina Mangin and Librarian Amy McKay with their trophies and award sponsor Steve Borondy of Western Power Distribution. Picture by Northants Telegraph



Careers Day at Peckover Primary

Peckover Primary School held a career day for Year 6 students. Every Year 6 child had a timetable of interviews for a wide spectrum of jobs ranging from dog groomers to cake decorators, emergency charge nurses and head teachers.

Pupils had to prepare for the day by researching the jobs and the qualifications

needed; writing CVs and learning about body language, eye contact and suitable interview wear. As part of the interviews punctuality was noted and professionalism and confidence were observed. All interviewers selected just one candidate for the job and gave feedback.



History Week

History was brought to life at Beanfield Primary Academy during History Week, which took place from June 22nd to June 26th. Local entrepreneur Charles Wicksteed was studied as well as Charlie Chaplin, Princess Diana and pupils learned all about the local witch trials in Northampton. All classes completed beautiful floor books, which showed the breadth of work completed over the week.

DIARY DATES

Governor Meeting dates for the 2015-16 academic year are listed in the table below:

Brooke Weston Academy	6th October 2015, 4pm 26th January 2016, 4pm 3rd May 2016, 4pm	Peckover Primary	15th September 2015, 5.30-7.30pm 8th December 2015, 5.30-7.30pm 9th February 2016, 5.30-7.30pm 26th April 2016, 5.30-7.30pm 12th July 2016, 5.30-7.30pm
Corby Technical School	1st October 2015, 4-6pm 21st January 2016, 4-6pm 26th May 2016, 4-6pm	Beanfield Primary	14th September 2015, 5.00-7.00pm 7th December 2015, 5.00-7.00pm 29th February 2016, 5.00-7.00pm 23rd May 2016, 5.00-7.00pm
Kettering Science Academy (secondary)	15th September 2015, 4-6pm 10th November 2015, 4-6pm 2nd February 2016, 4-6pm 26th April 2016, 4-6pm	Thomas Clarkson Academy	25th September, 6-8pm 28th January, 6-8pm 24th March, 6-8pm 22th June, 6-8pm
Kettering Science Academy (primary)	22nd September 2015, 4-6pm 12th November 2015, 4-6pm 28th January 2016, 4-6pm 28th April 2016, 4-6pm	Gretton Primary	20th October 2015, 4.30-6.30pm 26th January 2016, 4.30-6.30pm 26th April 2016, 4.30-6.30pm 12th July 2016, 4.30-6.30pm
Oakley Vale Primary	23rd September 2015, 5.30-7.30pm 18th November 2015, 5.30-7.30pm 16th March 2016, 5.30-7.30pm 8th June 2016, 5.30-7.30pm	Corby Business Academy	TBC

Chairs Forum meeting dates:

Venue TBC	21st September 2015, 6.00-8.00pm
Venue TBC	9th February 2016, 6.00-8.00pm
Venue TBC	16th May 2016, 6.00-8.00pm

