

Governance Report

St John Bosco College 2020-2021

The last academic year has sadly been dominated again by the Coronavirus pandemic. We have had significant periods of lockdown and our students and staff have had to cope with the many restrictions imposed by social distancing, mask wearing, working in bubbles and contact tracing. Testing staff and students en masse and remotely has had a significant impact on our teaching and learning time. The Governors would like to commend the whole school community on the way they adapted to the changes.

Our teacher assessed grades, successfully moderated, gave the school excellent results both at GCSE and A Level/BTEC. We continue to show positive and above average progress data so that the students can achieve more than was expected on starting at SJBC.

During this year the Governing Body has continued to meet on a hybrid of remote and in person meetings. The in-school visit days planned for January had to be cancelled but will be re-instated in January 2022.

During the year Governors conducted termly inspection of the Single Central Record of staff, a key tool in ensuring Safeguarding is of the highest standard.

During this academic year we have finally moved into a surplus budget, and along with the steady increase in student numbers, this will enable the Governors to support the Senior Leaders in continuing our progression to achieve an Outstanding Ofsted inspection.

We continue to experience issues with our Heating and Ventilation system and are still working with the main contractor to resolve these issues, even though the building has been operational for nearly 6 years. The Governors expect to oversee major changes to improve this situation this year.

During 2021-2022 we will see an expansion of our base provision supporting students with Autism and Mental Health needs. These students continue to enrich our school community. We will also continue to lead the Battersea Cluster for the NHS Mental Health Trailblazer, providing mental health support to up to 8000 children locally. Our student roll will be its highest yet. The Governors are proud to be part of such an excellent school and will continue to support and guide the staff through the challenges ahead.

Jane Hargrave JP
Chair of Governors

Please see below the summaries from our three Governor sub committees:

Resources – chaired by Allan Gardiner

It is fair to say that we did not necessarily achieve all we set out to do this year on the Resources Committee as the COVID pandemic was something of a distraction for everyone over the course of the year.

For once our main focus was not our financial situation. The management of the potential impact of the COVID pandemic on our students, teachers and support teams became an enormous drain on all the resources in the school, especially on the time of teachers and support teams. I have to say that the school responded to this challenge with great ingenuity, drive and resilience to a rapidly changing situation. The school has dealt with, and continues to deal with, the challenges of the COVID pandemic extremely well.

Thoughts about our financial situation did not however disappear this year and we continued to work through our plan to remove the deficit that we have had to live with for some years. I am very pleased to say that for the first time we have been able to set a surplus budget for the coming year. This has been in a large part due to the fact that we are bucking the trend and are a growing school in terms of student numbers. As our good reputation has grown, so have our year seven and sixth form admissions, as well as our in year admissions across all year groups.

In addition we have continued to work collaboratively with Wandsworth Borough Council to ensure that we maximised our opportunities to be financially efficient as possible, especially by sharing best practice from other schools. We have continued to review and adjust the staffing structure of the school to make it as efficient as possible, whilst balancing this against the needs of a growing school that aspires to increase its curriculum. We have continued to review and change a number of the contracts that the school has with external suppliers, which has all helped with meeting our budget challenge. The impact of the pandemic meant that we did not meet our targets for increasing income from lettings of space within the school over the last year, but we are hopeful that this will be more of an opportunity for us in the coming year.

The heating and ventilation system has continued to be problematic over the course of the year, but we are now finally starting to get to the bottom of the issues and have seen a better environment over recent months and a welcome reduction in our energy bills. Bringing this matter to a conclusion will be a key aim of the coming year.

For this coming year, the main focus will need to be the work that we have had to largely pause because of the pandemic. This is planning for the very real prospect that our school is likely to be full in a few years' time. We need to plan to make the best use of the space we have, both inside and outside, to ensure we provide the best possible environment we can for our students. Everyone on the resources committee is looking forward to dealing with this sort of challenge as opposed to

managing our way out of a deficit!

Governors' Impact Statement 2020-2021

Quality of Education Chaired by Mrs Moira Bennett

The Curriculum committee are tasked with ensuring that the quality of academic education provided by SJBC is outstanding. The aim of the committee is to provide support and challenge for the school in terms of: Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact. **In 2020/21** the committee reviewed the methods used to produce the predicted grades for the end of year public examinations (Summer 2020 & 2021) and were satisfied that the process was secure and fair and gave them a high level of confidence in the accuracy of the results. Throughout the year the committee monitored the school's response to the challenges presented by the covid-19 pandemic in terms of the effects on the quality of the education provided. The committee were very impressed with the thorough and comprehensive approach the school took to mitigate the 'damage' caused by the pandemic, including ensuring there was a clear picture of the gaps that the extended absence had left and the plans to shore-up those gaps.

The committee regularly monitored progress and attainment for all students, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups. The quality of Teaching & Learning was regularly reviewed and the committee were encouraged that this area has been going from strength to strength even under challenging circumstances. The committee noted that there is a tangible desire to keep on improving. Finally, the committee regularly reviewed all aspects of the quality of education in the 6th form including the introduction of the new Bridging Programme which is designed to fuse the curriculum pathway with work experience to support the transition to university, apprenticeships or employment. The committee were supportive of the school's decision to introduce new subjects for those students who want to take a less academic route

The Personal Development Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the Personal Development and the Behaviour and Attitudes of students at SJBC is outstanding. The aim of the committee is to provide support and challenge for the school in terms of how leaders and staff create a safe, calm, orderly and positive environment in the school and the impact this has on the behaviour and attitudes of pupils; how leaders and staff provide a curriculum that provides for learners' broader development, enabling them to develop and discover their interests and talents; prepares learners for future success in their next steps and for life in modern Britain. It is also responsible for scrutinizing and agreeing the school's policies relating to behaviour and attitudes each year. **In 2020/21** the governors had a particular focus on the Student Mental Health & Well Being provision. The Chair of the committee worked with Ms. Ahmed (MH & WB Lead member of staff) to complete a Governors' Audit of Student MH & WB. The committee were pleased to note that the provision in this important area of school life is both comprehensive and pro-active. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this academic year was particularly challenging for both staff and students and the committee ensured that they were kept informed of the school's management of the situation in terms of the availability and uptake of on-line access to lessons and curriculum material during the enforced periods of closure. Members of the committee have engaged with the Student Council and have attended a number of on-line Council meetings via Zoom. The committee were pleased to note both the level of engagement of the student members of the council and the detailed feedback and progress reports (on issues raised) provided by the staff. Finally, the committee

were keen to understand how the school was addressing the issues raised nationally by the 'Everyone's Invited' website that published instances of sexual harassment of students in some schools. A member of the committee attended a series of staff led workshops that gave students the opportunity to discuss these national issues, which were well received by students.

Prepared by Chair of PD & Curriculum committees– Moira Bennett - July 2021

Governors' Impact Statement 2020-2021

RUAH Committee – Chaired by Dr John Lydon

The Governors' RUAH Committee has responsibility for: ensuring that St John Bosco College (SJBC) is an outstanding Roman Catholic, Salesian school. The aim of the committee is to provide support and challenge for the school in terms of:

- Catholic Life of the school
- Collective Worship in the school
- Quality of Religious Education in the school
- Scrutinizing and agreeing the school's admissions policy each year.

The RE Department and the Chaplaincy Team continue to build on the Outstanding judgement achieved in the Section 48 inspection in May 2019. With regard to Collective Worship the report stated that:

Collective Worship is recognised as fundamental to deepening the spiritual development of students. It is central to the daily life of the school. The effectiveness of chaplaincy is evident in the quality of liturgical opportunities for all members of the community. These opportunities inspire thoughtful spiritual responses from pupils.

This judgement continues to be a lived reality at SJBC. During the period of the Pandemic Chaplaincy provision compared to Catholic schools in general, has been distinctly positive, especially in the context of the liturgical life of the College. This reflects the excellent ministry of Fr Saju John SDB, summed up appositely by the Headteacher in a recent report:

I would like to note here that we are very sorry to be losing our wonderful chaplain, Fr Saju, to the Salesian School in Thornleigh, Bolton. He has been with us for over 10 years and has provided invaluable support to the school in so many ways but not least in his work with individual students who need that extra care and attention that he provides

In terms of spiritual development, the key priorities revolve around transition planning for the new chaplain, following the departure of Fr Saju. The College look forward to

welcoming Fr Gregory Echegwo SDB who has been appointed by the Salesian Provincial to the role of Chaplain of SJBC.

In regard to Religious Education the judgement of the 2019 Section 48 Report that outcomes in Religious Education have consistently improved and . from attainment levels below the national average on entry, almost all pupils make at least good, and often outstanding, progress in Religious Education” remains the case. Headlines for RE GCSE in 2020 included 79 % of students achieved a Grade 4 ensuring that the RE Department outperformed other subjects which is particularly encouraging in the context of the core mission of the Catholic school. This once again reflects the outstanding leadership of Fr Andrew Ebrahim SDB. During Academic Year 2020-21 the Leadership of the School undertook a subject review of the Department which will be the subject of ongoing conversations during Academic Year 2021-22. These conversations will focus on preparations for the next denominational inspection which will be carried out under the new National Inspection Framework.

The terms of reference of the RUAH committee endeavour to ensure that a balance is maintained between issues around school improvement and Catholic/Salesian distinctiveness, recognising the important synergies between each. In the context I conclude by highlighting the contribution of the Salesian community to the maintenance of this balance. The interface between St John Bosco College and the Salesian community continues to constitute a particularly positive characteristic and has developed with significant support from several members of the Salesian community in a range of contexts including chaplaincy, ethos, spiritual formation and support for pupils with learning disabilities.

Professor John Lydon KC*HS
Chair of the RUAH Committee

September 2021