

15 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, on behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to thank you for supporting your child and the school over the past 16 months as we all had to deal with the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic and associated lockdowns. It has been a very difficult time, physically, mentally, emotionally and financially for so many, as we all had to change the way we live, to follow the latest government advice. Many of us have had to deal with great loss and some continue to suffer from long term ill health as a consequence of being infected with Covid-19 and our thoughts remain with you and your families.

Despite all of these challenges, our students have shown their resilience and determination, and have adapted so well to these changes. These have included moving to online home learning (with high attendance levels), complying with new covid-safe procedures on their return to school, twice weekly Lateral Flow testing, supporting their friends and family, and much more. We should all be proud of our students and how they conducted themselves and I would like to thank them for being such great role models for our school.

Our staff also rose to the many challenges they too faced; moving from classroom teaching to delivering online lessons, adapting the curriculum to ensure our students continued to learn whilst at home, and supporting the school re-opening, ensuring students caught up on months of lost learning. In recent weeks, with no GCSE or A' level exams again this year, staff took on the enormous task of conducting assessments to arrive at Teacher Assessment Grades. We also need to remember that many staff are parents and carers themselves, so not only were they supporting our students during these difficult times, but they were also supporting their loved ones. On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to thank them for their tireless efforts.

The Governing Board during this time remained totally focused on supporting the school, staff and students. The Board started to meet virtually to ensure that the school continued to function well under such difficult circumstances. Governors actively took part in ensuring that all policies reflected the changes related to home schooling and online learning, along with appropriate safeguarding measures. They also approved school meal vouchers during all holidays to ensure our most vulnerable students did not go hungry, irrespective of any government decisions. Laptops and internet connections was also provided to a number of students so that they could take part in online lessons. Our ethos is and always will be that no student should miss out on their learning. Governors regularly reviewed risk assessments to ensure that when students returned to school, they had a safe place to continue their education. Mr McKenna, Mr Jatla, the Senior Leadership Team and all staff worked tirelessly to ensure that the school was compliant with Covid safe regulations.

Recently the Board and the school leadership have been looking towards the future. During the summer break, Stanley Avenue will undergo some building updates to accommodate the increase in student numbers as years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be based there from September. There will be a continuation of many of the procedures that were put in place for Covid, such as dedicated year group entrances into school, and staggered dismissal times. The Board has also started to review the long-term vision for the school, as we

start work on the next stage of the Governors' Strategy <https://www.alperton.brent.sch.uk/our-school/about-us/governors>

Alperton Community School has also supported the community in these difficult times, including donation of PPE equipment made to Northwick Park hospital and money raised for the 'Oxygen for India' appeal. In turn many parents volunteered at the school testing centre to support the Lateral Flow testing of every student in March. Next term, the Board will work closely with the school for opportunities for more parental engagement and opportunities in the local business community for fundraising.

You may already be aware that Ofsted visited the school on 13th and 14th July to carry out a Section 8 Inspection, which was a positive and supportive experience. The final report will be issued in the autumn term, and we will make this available for everyone.

In the meantime, again on behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to wish the best of luck to our year 11 and year 13 students with their examination results and year 13 university/apprenticeship applications. We are also looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 in September.

Thank you all for your continued support and I wish you a safe summer break.

Kind regards



Mona Shah
Chair of Governors

