



## A Note from the Governors



We have come to the end of another busy academic year, and it has been great to have the federation return to a more stable period after the previous years' disruptions from Covid-19. Indeed, whilst writing this note, we have just completed an exciting week of sporting activities and it has been lovely to see the enjoyment of the children from this type of curriculum enrichment. As a governing body, we are continually impressed by the outstanding efforts of the staff and Executive Headteacher to provide such a rich and varied school experience, alongside their indomitable spirit in rising to every challenge and working tirelessly to further the best interests of the children.

During the Autumn term, we were visited at Hustwaite school by Ofsted who conducted a full inspection. The report detailed so many aspects of strength that the whole federation team can be proud of, such as kindness being at the heart of the school, its ethos and values, the excellent behaviour and attitude of the children and that leaders' ambitions for pupils are high. Disappointingly, the inspector judged the school as Requires Improvement, with the key area of focus being to ensure a fully sequenced curriculum. The whole federation staff team immediately began to address this, working alongside external support and putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort. Comprehensive manuals for all subjects have been further developed, to ensure that specific knowledge and vocabulary are identified and planned sequentially in all subjects. We, as governors, are working alongside staff to challenge and support these developments. The external support we have received from the Ebor Academy Trust has been invaluable throughout this work: it is providing practical help to the staff team as well as helping to further develop their professional roles as subject leaders.

Through a mixture of face-to-face and network-enabled formats, governors have been able to attend Full Governing Board meetings and meetings of the School Improvement Committee and Resources Committees. Subsequently, through rigorous questioning, we have held the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the schools and the overall wellbeing of the staff and pupils.

This term the Governing Body had a local authority Governor Health Check. This looks at the skills within the governing body, ensuring we are able to cover all aspects of the statutory responsibilities of a Governing Body, namely holding the headteacher to account, managing the finances of the federation and ensuring the vision and Christian values are at the centre of the federation's development. I am pleased to say that this health check came out strongly, with only a small number of suggested improvements, which will form our Governor Action plan.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the governing body and the Executive Headteacher have regular meetings to examine all aspects of the School Development Plans, and wellbeing continues to be a key focus during these meetings.

This will be by my last term as Co-chair/chair of Governors after over 5 years in the role. It has been a privilege to support this federation during this time, working with the fantastic team across the whole federation. I will be stepping down in the Autumn term, a new chair will be chosen and I will continue to be part of the governing body. There are vacancies for new governors so if anyone is considering this rewarding work, please do let the school know.

Finally, we would both like to thank all the parents and carers for their continuing support of the schools and applaud all who have volunteered their time, especially participants in FOHS and FOSS for their continual fundraising efforts, it is greatly appreciated.

Louisa Carolan

Chair of Governors

Gill Shaw

Vice-Chair of Governors