



27 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Update on governance and leadership

I am writing with an update on governance and leadership. In December, Simon Kitchman stepped down from the Trust Board after four years as Chair and over ten years as a governor then trustee. Throughout his time with us, Simon has been a passionate advocate of our ethos and has provided excellent support for both schools across many different areas, most recently relating to the development of our new buildings. He played a key role in securing the substantial capital funding required and worked tirelessly as part of the team taking the project forward. We thank him for the significant contribution he has made.

Although we are sad to see Simon go, I am delighted to report that David Hartland, previously our Vice-Chair, has been appointed Chair, with Sarah Kemp appointed as Vice-Chair. Both are long-standing trustees whose children attended the high school.

Regarding wider governance, we are keen to bolster our capacity, particularly around finance. As such, we would welcome expressions of interest from parents, particularly those with financial or accountancy experience who may wish to support the work of our Finance and Audit Committee as well as our wider governance activity. If you would like a conversation with myself and one or two other Trustees to find out more about what a role with us might involve, please contact Charlotte Gaines, Clerk to the Trust Board, via cgaines@gehs.net.

Finally, as you will be aware, Mr Seaton, our new Head of School at QE, and Mr Watters, Deputy Headteacher at HMS, are leading our day-to-day operations in each school and in relation to home learning, and will continue to communicate with you about these as they have been doing. In addition to maintaining close oversight of the quality of our provision, I will be increasingly focused on ensuring that things continue to progress well with our new buildings and that we are well prepared as school communities to take our place in them in September 2021. I shall write to you from time to time over the coming months to keep you updated on our progress.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher