

Governors Welcome and Review of the Past Year

It's with great pride that we welcome you to Dothill Primary School. As Governors at Dothill we are privileged to work with enthusiastic, dedicated and highly skilled teaching and support teams, outstanding students and a Head Teacher with a clear vision for a school where we cater not only for National Curriculum subjects and academia, but for the education of the whole child.

The last eighteen months in education has been turbulent due to the Covid-19 epidemic and schools have been forced to learn quickly and adapt swiftly to changing times. The leadership at Dothill, supported by our fabulous teaching and support staff, have worked endlessly to overcome many of these barriers to learning. A great success of the past year has been our remote learning offer. Utilising Seesaw, provision of technology to those who have needed it, and our excellent (and growing!) provision for wellbeing meant that we were able to provide a high standard of education to our students with flexibility for completion times - vital when so many of our parents were juggling full time work with supporting our pupils. The effort of our families in these times was commendable, and we'd like to thank you for your hard work. Remote Learning is only as powerful as those willing to engage and support their children in it, and our parents were certainly some of the best! Many parents took the time to complete the Parent Survey which was emailed out - here are a few of our most valued comments:

I think the daily Team meetings are good, and the work on Seesaw is varied and feedback is brilliant.

Love the inclusiveness of the Teams meetings!! It's a great way to start off the day, and set the pace. Dothill is doing a great job this time around, well done to everyone!

Everything is so easy to access on Seesaw and it's made home schooling a lot easier this time round.

Some good 'off screen' practical activities in addition to core.

Parent
Voice

The call from Mrs Harvey was reassuring and helpful. My daughter loves the voice comment feedback from Mrs Wood. I think they're doing a marvellous job juggling supporting those in school and remote learning, thank you.

The return to school following the pandemic was gradual and many students were delighted to be back with their friends. Wellbeing was placed at the forefront of school life, with Wellbeing Wednesdays continuing up to the summer holidays. The school has also applied for funding to support with student Mental Health, which is seeing such coverage in the media at present. We want to ensure our students have the support as and when needed.

The new school year has seen a positive return for our pupils. We have welcomed several new staff members - Mr Kirkpatrick (Assistant Head/Year 6 teacher), Mr Johnson (Year 5 teacher), Mrs Proctor (Maternity cover in EYFS) and Miss Jobe (Maternity cover in Y3/4). We are also please to welcome two apprentices into EYFS - Mr Brown and Miss Coomber.

Our recent student voice showed that students were overwhelmingly happy to be back in school and were enjoying meeting their new teachers and accessing their exciting curriculum, along with more simple pleasures such as being able to meet with other classes in the dining hall again. Our students have adapted and grown so much over the past eighteen months, it's such a pleasure to see them enjoying activities as life becomes a little more 'normal' again.

As a school, our outreach work was curtailed last year but we are delighted to report some special events were still able to take place, such as the Arthog Outreach programme in the summer. We hope to be able to support our school in the provision of more extra-curricular activities this academic year, providing that we are able with ever changing Covid guidance.

In addition to extra-curricular provision, we hope that the coming year will bring about collective endeavour through our new Behaviour Policy (our students are fantastic and the increased focus on rewards is something that is certainly well deserved) and an increase in effective communication with parents through our emailing system and Facebook Page. If you're not following us yet, please join us! It's the best place to get regular updates of what our students have been up to and key notices (any core information the leadership team will ensure is still emailed out).

Dothill Governors are interested in and care about the education, welfare and opportunities provided for our students. We work closely with the Head Teacher and staff to ensure that the school continues to offer the highest possible standards. We welcome the views of parents. For more information on our role in the school community, please visit the *Governors Page*. <*hyperlink Gov's page in*>

Derek Miller, Chair of Governors, and the Governing Body (October 2021)