

Archbishop Sancroft High School

ASHS TO ANYWHERE



FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

April 2016

REPORT TO PARSH COUNCILS

The Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body would like to thank Councillors for their continued interest and support of the school.

We reported last year on the serious changes affecting Education, this has continued at a pace into this academic year. In addition to ensuring that the changes made last year are imbedded into the culture of the school, we are, like all modern businesses, managing a list of priorities to ensure that the school continues to offer the best provision for young people.

In partnership with our professional colleagues, the Governing Body have reviewed our long term plans for the school, and I am pleased to say that the new Vision is being implemented. It sets out a clear plan for the development of the school over the next few years. Our Vision states that "Students leave the school equipped with the skills, belief and confidence they need to succeed in their chosen path". If we are successful, all students leaving Archbishop Sancroft High School (ASHS) can go from "ASHS to Anywhere".

With the recent high profile announcements by the Chancellor and Education Secretary, Academisation is now an urgent priority for schools. Most Secondary Schools in Norfolk have converted, and the primary phase is fast catching up. The appointment of a Regional Schools Commissioner underlines the Government's determination to implement this area of their Education Policy. Schools will be part of Multi Academy Trusts by the end of this Parliament. We are in discussion with our local Cluster Primary Schools to determine the best way forward for the children and young people in the Harleston area. We are hoping to find a positive way forward which will benefit all concerned. The Governing Body's policy is to ensure that when we do convert, it will be at a time that is right for our school, and will benefit of our students. You may infer by reading this passage that the Governing Body is somewhat perplexed by the whole business of replacing the single Local Authority by a plethora of Multi Academy Trusts, fragmenting the education landscape. We can actually see little that will benefit students.

On more local matter the introduction of the new uniform and Vertical Tutoring has been managed well. We are now bringing the management structure of the school in line with modern thinking, moving from a structure of Departments to a more streamlined and accountable system of Faculties. Our aim is to create three faculties which will improve the effectiveness of middle management, provide newly appointed Faculty Leaders with an entry point to Senior leadership and reduce costs.

Being a small High School we offer many advantages to our students, and we see great value in defending our "small is beautiful" approach. However we have to accept that there are times when small is not beautiful. Scale of operation, sharing facilities and staff with other schools does reduce costs. Collectively the four schools in our Cluster purchase a vast amount of goods and services, buying together unlocks opportunities to obtain the best value. To this end the Cluster have formed the Sancroft Church Schools Trust. The Trust comprises of the three Primary Schools of Harleston, Pulham Market, Alburgh with Denton, and the High School. Together we are working to improve our effectiveness. We are delighted to be a part of this Trust and hope that working together closely will yield the benefits we all hope for.

Thank you again for you continued support and interest.
Alan Thorp - Chair of Governors

Voluntary Aided Church of England – Head Teacher: Mr Richard Cranmer

Wilderness Lane, Harleston, Norfolk. IP20 9DD – Telephone: 01379 852561 – Fax: 01379 855829

email address: office@archbishop-sancroft-high.norfolk.sch.uk