

# CPD Federation

## Newsletter

Issue 12.

### FEDERATION GROWTH PLAN

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the Governors have approved a plan to grow the Federation over the next few years, steadily and sustainably. Our desire is to be a small Federation of local schools by 2023; a Federation that will see benefits to all schools and the pupils within them. Our key intention is to make sure that as many children as possible in Newham attend schools that have at least a 'Good' judgement by Ofsted and where attainment is at least in line with the national average, but ideally above the national average, and where children make at least above average progress.



Since the newsletter in December, we were approached by a school asking for senior leadership support and want to investigate what it means to be part of a Federation. With the agreement of the Governors, Emma Griffin from Dersingham has been seconded to Calverton Primary School 4 days a week to join their leadership team until the end of academic year. Rachel Speed from Central Park is working at least 1 day a week to strategically support the Headteacher. A number of weeks in and the partnership is going well.

Calverton Primary is in Custom House. The school has resourced provision for pupils with ASD. It is currently judged a good school but standards are below national average at the end of key stage two. Having 'expertise' in supporting pupils with ASD and complex needs is beneficial to our schools as we can access this expertise and further support our pupils. As Executive Headteacher, I am meeting the Governing Body of the school to discuss what federation actually means, the process of federation and the expectations of being part of CPD Schools Federation. There is genuine interest on behalf of both sides to develop the partnership formally and, whilst at the very early stages, we anticipate that our Federation will grow to 3 schools for September 2020.

### SCHOOL TO SCHOOL SUPPORT



With Lando Du'Plooy being a serving Ofsted Inspector, as a Federation we have been able to benefit from his knowledge gained through training. It continues to develop our two schools and helps us stay ahead of what is expected in schools. He is an asset to our Federation due to all this information.

Since Ofsted introduced a new inspection framework other schools are now requesting that we support them. In recent weeks, some of the leadership team from both schools have spent a day or two in a number of schools helping them understand where and how they need to improve for their inspections. As a Federation, we are ensuring that our schools continue to do well before helping others but there are a number of benefits to supporting these schools.

It is great that the Federation can generate income by charging schools for this work but important for us is that senior staff in both schools are developing themselves professionally by having this experience. Also, stepping inside other schools means that we can learn from their practice. Another benefit is how we start to develop relationships with these schools and they could become part of our Federation in the future.

Linked to the new inspection framework, the Federation is holding training for subject leaders. This has grown from a few schools wanting to take part to several schools now being involved. Again, it generates some income for the schools but from a moral leadership perspective it means that more of our Newham schools will be in a better position to go through their inspection successfully.

All schools can improve, including our own. Whilst we are doing well we will always push for higher expectations and better outcomes for your children. The more we can work with other schools, in any capacity, the more likely we will pick up things that enhance what we offer.



## GOVERNORS IN SCHOOL DAY

The Governors Day in School is fast approaching again. Whilst Governors make visits throughout the year, this day is specifically focused for them to meet stakeholders and fulfil some of their link roles. Our next day will be held on **Wednesday 11th March**; they will visit Central Park in the morning and Dersingham in the afternoon. More details will follow nearer the time but we expect to hold a 'meet the governors' session for parents at the start of the day at Central Park and at the end of the day at Dersingham. Please make a note of the date. It will be a time for you to hear what Governors have been up to over the past year as well as ask them questions and share any thoughts you have currently about the schools.



## SCHOOL DATES

A reminder, that next week is closed for half term and both schools return on **Monday 24th February**. Our schools dates for the rest of this year and the dates for 2020/2021 are on the school's website so please do look before booking any holidays.



I'll start to sound like a broken record but have to again mention our fall in attendance and how we must address this important issue. Do make sure your children attend school every day they can and as parents please do not book any term-time leave which involves taking your children out of school.

Please remember both schools finish relatively early at the end of the summer, before many local schools and nationally. This is planned in attempt to support you as parents should you have to buy flight tickets. It will hopefully still be a bit cheaper that weekend.

## INTERNAL AUDIT

Last week it was Central Park's turn to have a visit from Internal Audit. This is a 3 day inspection of the school finances, processes and systems. The intention is to give assurance that public funds, i.e. the school budget, are being managed and spent well. That the school provides good value for money in their spend and of course there is no practice that could potentially lead to poor management of the funds or even fraudulent activity.

Whilst we have to wait a couple of weeks for our report, the verbal feedback was very positive. We were told to expect the highest level of assurance when the report is published.

Congratulations to all those closely involved with the finance of the school and I am sure you are very pleased to hear that scrutiny of our financial management found no issues of significance.



## BEYOND ENGLISH AND MATHS

Each school prides itself on offering a broad curriculum; we put equal importance on all subjects. We rightly place emphasis on English and Mathematics but make sure that all children can demonstrate their talents in other subjects. We try and take part in activities that will provide new opportunities and experiences for our children. Recently, Dersingham took part in and won a regional Lego competition. They now go to a national level! The Young Voices Choir at Central Park recently performed to a sold out crowd at the O2 arena—not even some pop stars achieve that! I am sure these experiences will hold life-long memories for these children.



## THANK YOU

Lando and I would like to say a quick thank you for the improved position regarding the contributions to educational visits at Dersingham. It has really helped the school deliver a wider curriculum and enhance the learning for all children. Thank you so much.

## HAPPY HALF-TERM

As ever, I wish our families a lovely half-term break and hope that those usually working are able to get time off to spend family time together and do some nice things. There is so much to do in London—many of them free. Have a lovely week.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher