

ESTABLISHING THE FEDERATION

CPD Schools Federation officially grew to three schools on 1st October. The Federation is now based around the Borough with Central Park in East Ham, Dersingham in Manor Park and Calverton in Custom House. Being represented across the Borough is a great thing for the Federation as we learn from each other and how we serve such diverse communities.

At the start of term, parent and staff nominations to serve on the Federation Board were invited. Across all three schools we only had two parents nominate themselves and one staff member. This meant that those nominations were elected to the Federation Board unopposed. The Local Authority nominated their LA Representative to sit on the Board—Cllr Carleene Lee-Phakoe. Carleene had sat on the Governing Board at Calverton so her nomination was accepted. Along with myself, we all met on Wednesday 13th October to look at the co-option of the rest of the Governing Board. From across the Boards we had seven nominations to be co-opted for the seven available positions.



We are pleased to state that we have no vacancies on the Federation Board and it now consists of the following:

Ms Fiona Shaik Umer	(Parent Governor)
Ms Gilbertine Tchouka	(Parent Governor)
Mr Vijith Vijay	(Staff Governor)
Mr Darren Williams	(Executive Headteacher)
Cllr Carleen Lee - Phakoe	(LA Governor)

Co-opted Governors:

Ashuk Hussain, Ghazala Raja, David Bond, Anita Waring, Steven Morrissey, Katie Kendrick and Irfaan Ibne.

All members are working professionals who bring a wide-ranging skill set to the Federation Board. The purpose of this Board is to work strategically with the all schools in the Federation and the members are committed to doing so. All their details will be uploaded to each schools website very soon. Calverton have established a Local Governing Committee and the other two schools will look to introduce this tier

during the year. The Local Governance Committee will deal with more school specific issues you may want to raise but should you wish to contact a member of the Federation Board then please let the Headteacher know who will pass your details on to either the Parent Governors, or if necessary the Chair of Governors. The Federation Board will issue their Annual Report very soon so do look out for it and read what they have been involved with over the past 12 months.



START OF TERM

Whilst there has been a different challenge at the start of term in each school, I like to think that you were not aware of them! There has been Covid related absence amongst the senior leaders and a bereavement resulting in absence. By not knowing this it means that the schools run smoothly and without incident.

We must remember that Covid has not gone away and the schools are dealing with the impact of this virus every day still. The schools have tried to return to as many normal working practices as possible but some measures remain for safety, and Calverton had to re-introduce many measures for a period of time. Thankfully, locally cases have been falling in recent months. However, just like the national picture, there has been a notable increase in cases in Newham the last few weeks.

Otherwise, each school has started as it means to go on. The collaboration across the schools has got better and we are all focused on improvement in each school. There is a lot to do to achieve the high standards we are all hoping for. Each school has its own priorities and will report on them throughout the year so you get to hear about the progress being made.



TERM DATES

You maybe aware that next year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee—seventy years on the throne. To mark this special occasion, there will be two bank holidays at the start of June 2022. As these dates fall within the usual late half-term, the school term will be reduced by one day so that staff in schools can also benefit from this occasion. As a result the schools have agreed to close one day earlier at the end of the summer term. Do check the school website to see the detail as this year the schools have different term dates.

The Federation Governing Board approved the 2022/23 term dates last week and these will also be added to the school websites. All schools have the same dates next year.

Rather than asking children to return to school for the Friday only they will return to school on Monday 5th September. I do hope this notice gives you plenty of time to arrange any holidays you might take during the summer holiday, returning with good time for the start of term.

SEPTEMBER 2022						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

I have been kept busy as the new school year kicks off. It has been lovely getting to know Calverton better over the past 7 weeks. I have spent a bigger proportion of my time there understanding the workings of the school and we have been formulating plans to work on throughout the year.

In all three schools I have met with the School Council / Parliament. The children were articulate, had some good ideas and are so perceptive! I look forward to hearing how their role impacts for the good of all pupils.

I have carried out various learning walks to help shape the priorities to focus on.



Walking into classrooms, chatting with staff and children gives a real understanding of what is happening. We want to collaborate even closer this year so we can share the best practice and help address where improvements are needed. The positive news is that the schools are doing well and they know the areas they have to work on. The Headteachers are ambitious for their own school to be the best it possibly can.

I have also held a budget review with each school. Each school is responsible for their own budget and Headteachers are accountable for their finances. Schools budgets continue to tighten, unplanned spend with Covid-19 has not helped, but there will be a national funding formula rolled out to schools which is likely to impact on the funds Newham already give to their schools.

Central Park and Dersingham continue to have healthy budget positions but the reducing carry forward will have implications on what we can do next year. At Calverton, they do not have any flexibility in their budget and are planning to bring the budget back into a surplus position. Legally they have a timeframe to do so but the sooner the better. This does mean Caroline Crompton is having to make some hard decisions that will result in changes during the year. Unfortunately, put simply the number of children has fallen in the school and this has a serious impact on the budget received by the school.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

At primary school, Newham has the Eat For Free Scheme. This scheme however masks the free meals entitlement and the school could be missing out on money. Infant aged pupils have their meals covered by a Government grant. Within the school budget there is funding to cover children entitled to free school meals based on parental income. The Eat For Free Scheme covers those junior aged pupils who are not entitled to free school meals.

The pandemic resulted in an increasing number of pupils entitled to free school meals and as a result the school will get extra money through a Pupil Premium Grant. The voucher scheme is also still being funded so families entitled to free school meals will receive a voucher over the holiday period.

If you have not checked whether you are entitled to free school meals then please speak to someone at the school to help you. You, and the school, could be missing out!

HALF TERM

Next week is half term. I hope you can spend time together as a family and enjoy what Newham and London has to offer. Fingers crossed for some good weather. A reminder that the clocks change at the end of the month. Autumn Term 2 is usually full of various festivals and events and I wish those celebrating a lovely time.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher

