

Governors' Annual Report

Number 4, October 2017

Archer Academy governors continue to play an important role in our now well-established school. Over this last year our multi-skilled team has worked with school staff to provide a pathway for post-16 students. The resulting partnerships with Woodhouse College and Barnet and Southgate College are a fantastic result, bringing surety to our students and valuable opportunities for collaboration between staff.

But whilst these high profile successes attract attention, behind the scenes our team continues to support and challenge the school to deliver an ambitious and nurturing school experience for students and staff alike.

This report gives an insight into some of our work – do get in touch if you'd like to learn more.

Avis Johns, Chair of Governors



archer
ACADEMY



Headteacher's highlights

This September marks a significant moment in the journey of the Archer Academy; we are a complete school for the first time. Our celebratory whole school assembly on the 12th September was a momentous occasion. As I looked around a sports hall with 750 young people and 112 members of staff I felt incredibly proud of all that has been achieved to date.

Our pioneer year group are now in Year 11 and preparing to sit their GCSE examinations in June 2018; I know they feel

well supported and I look forward to celebrating their results.

When looking back over the last academic year it is poignant to reflect on just how much we achieved. Highlights of the year must include the Summer Showcase, Sports Day and our Choral and Instrumental concerts. In addition, our special themed weeks such as the Big Draw, LitFest and Science Week were outstanding.

However, it is the more everyday aspects of our school community which continue to astound and remind me of what a special place the Archer Academy is:

watching students rock climb and debate in enrichment, compete in chess tournaments, pitch business ideas during a Dragons Den workshop in Thematic Learning, collaborate in reading projects with primary school children and attend inspirational Bright Ideas lectures with paramedics, dentists and authors.

As a campus school, we are truly seeing the benefits that this structure to our school affords us. Our specialist GCSE Centre, Upper School, on Beaumont Close enables a more mature setting, and provides a superb link to 6th form. Whilst in Lower School, on Stanley Road, our young people thrive amongst the open green spaces, opportunities for leadership and their broad, academic and creative curriculum. Our small, community school is enhanced by this structure and as a result our young people are thriving.

We are flourishing as a school. It is an exciting and dynamic place to be with a great deal to look forward to.

Lucy Harrison, Headteacher

Governing body: Review of the year

As governors we support the school in a number of ways outside of our regular, formal full governing body meetings.

As well as working closely with the senior leadership team through our Committee meetings where we look in detail at various aspects of school life, this last year has seen us embed our link governor system.

Link governors meet with our heads of department twice a year and give strategic insight into their priorities and challenges. We have also formalised our Strategy and Planning Committee meetings to ensure open communication and linking between Committee work.

We continue to give strategic oversight as well as offer skills and expertise from our professional backgrounds, and act as a critical friend to

ensure the very best outcomes for our students.

This last year we said goodbye to two staff governors Ludmilla Felic and Alice Humphrey and two community governors Lillian Caller and Joel Romaner. We thank them for all of their work on the board. In turn, we welcome three community governors who join the team bringing a wealth of expertise between them: Louise Dobrin, Jo Moses and Ben Whittaker.

As well as governors, we have volunteers who support Committee work for example in fundraising, resources, finance and communications.

Indeed, there are many ways that parents and community members can support the school, for example by delivering a Bright Ideas lecture or providing work experience opportunities for our Year 10 students.

If you are interested in supporting any aspect of the work of the school or the Governing Body, please contact Andry Moustras for further information:

andrym@thearcheracademy.org.uk

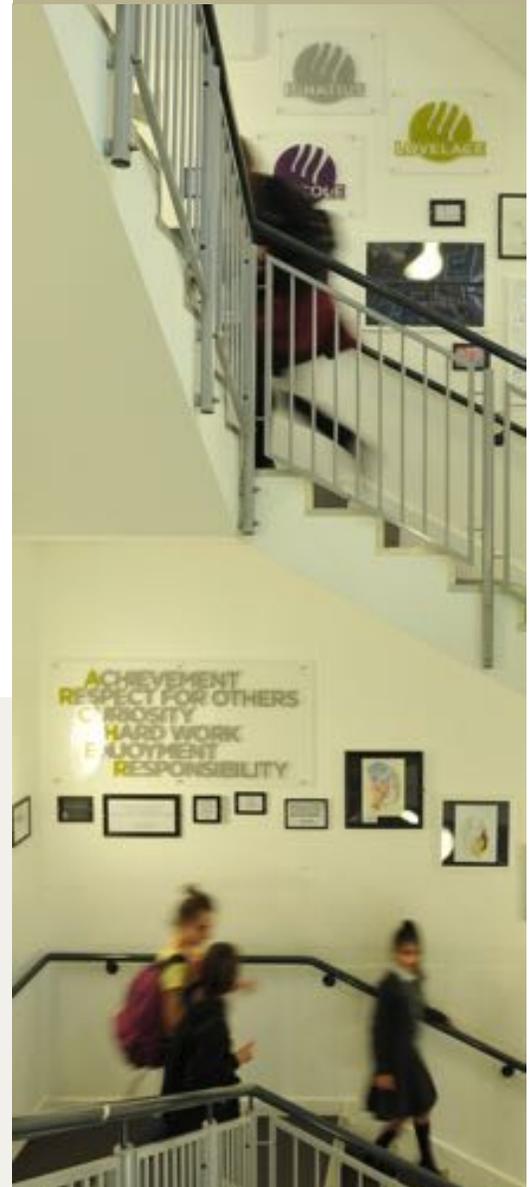
A Focus on Education & Standards

Our committees are key to the successful working of the governing body. We have committees devoted to issues of 'education and standards', 'pastoral and well-being', 'fundraising and business development', 'finance and audit' and 'resources'. These committees meet regularly with the aim to oversee and support the work of the school leadership team.

Take, for instance, the Education and Standards committee. This committee meets every half term to monitor the progress of our students: to ensure that all groups of learners are adequately supported and to identify and explore areas for further school focus.

Recently, and within this committee, the school leadership team has outlined actions taken to better track the progress of students at Key Stage 3; to enhance support for our most able students; and to improve our systems to assess the impact of alternative strategies for teaching and learning.

This is a milestone year for the school – our Year 11 students approach their GCSEs, the first to be taken at the Archer Academy. The work of the Education and Standards Committee will continue to support the school staff to provide the best provision they can for those students, and for all students who follow them in the coming years.



If you are interested in working at the Archer Academy, please sign up for job alerts in the 'Join Us' section of our website:

<http://thearcheracademy.org.uk>



Friends Association

The Friends Association continues to explore new ways to build a community of parents and friends, while raising money to enhance the school offer.

They ran a series of excellent events last year, including an auction evening, the annual quiz night and a fabulous summer fair. We are very grateful to all those who work so hard to organise these events and activities for the school.

If you can help, or simply want to find out more, please contact Lisha or Sara for further information:

archerfriends@gmail.com

School highlights

The vision for the school focuses on 'realising potential, inspiring creativity and engaging with our community.' Our staff and students constantly strive to deliver on this vision, both for themselves and for all those around them. As a result, there have been some wonderful events, achievements and successes over the past year.

For example, we secured winning performances in both the junior and the senior categories of the London Youth Games dance competition. This was the first time a Barnet school has won the London wide competition and also the first time a school has won gold in both categories.

We also followed up last year's overall victory with two silver medals at the Welwyn Youth Drama Festival. The adjudicator Alan Haslett said that the Junior team's performance was "bursting with energy, had a lovely physicality" and that the Senior team "played with our emotions, and took us from happy to sad to funny."

We continue to have successes in local sports, with excellent performances in chess, athletics, cricket and more.

Students developed their knowledge and experience, with trips to Berlin, and Amsterdam, along with skiing trips to Austria and the USA. Students visited The Globe, Sadler's Wells, BBC Radio and Diagon Alley. And we were absolutely delighted to welcome a range of visitors to the school, including inspirational talks from authors, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs, dancers and more.

Community projects continued this year, with various partnerships with local schools. We invited residents from local care homes for a winter party. We held a very popular Grandparents' Day, and our staff and governors represented N2 in the local 'Race the Neighbours'. Many of our students also pursued various forms of voluntary work in local organisations as they progressed towards Duke of Edinburgh awards.

In sum, and thanks to our staff and students, the school is buzzing with energy, activity and, indeed, some very special occasions.





Fundraising

Fundraising is always an important issue for schools. At the Archer Academy we are ambitious in our desire to offer every student more than just a basic education.

Delivering our twice-weekly Enrichment programme is an area that we fund from the school budget. Whilst we have brought in some external funding to support this, it would not continue to be possible without the Excellence Fund.

Donations to this allow us to ensure that every student has the opportunity to try two new activities each term, in areas that they might never have had the chance to experience. We are deeply grateful to all those who donate.

The Fundraising committee also looks for ways to support

and extend the curriculum. We have benefited from funding to deliver 'The Big Draw' week, to provide department specific equipment where required, and to improve the physical space around our buildings.

We are currently working on a number of projects, of which the most significant is 'Make Beaumont Brilliant'. Our Beaumont Close site has required improvement to enable delivery of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. Work is ongoing and we have ambitions for a library.

This will require considerable funding and we hope that our parents and friends continue to support this campaign, and share it with their networks.

If you would like to make a donation, or have fundraising expertise or contacts that you would be willing to share with us, please contact:
sarahg@thearcheracademy.org.uk

If you are interested in hiring any of our facilities, see:
<http://www.schoolsplus.co.uk/archeracademy/>

or contact the Schools Plus Venue Manager on 07983533501 on archeracademy@schoolsplus.co.uk

Developing our Campus

A significant amount of work was achieved over the summer term and holiday period to further develop our campus school. Much of this work has been governed by our aim to personalise the campus to meet the distinctive needs of our vision, values and curriculum model.

For instance, at the Upper School campus, we have introduced outside seating and picnic benches for our students, extended the parking capacity to support our staff and improved our facilities with a new art classroom, a new science laboratory and a new art & design studio.

At the Lower School campus, we have invested in a new computer suite installed, external fencing around the football pitch and re-organised our space to provide rooms to support learners with special educational needs.

Furthermore, given the space constraints we have re-designed the foyer to provide for some library storage. Across the campus, we have worked to increase the storage available within classrooms.

We have also been looking to develop various services in school. So, following competitive tendering processes, new catering and cleaning companies were appointed. They will help us to improve our standards further and the catering team will enhance our aim to encourage healthy eating.



Key features of our student population: 2016-17

Girls	47%	
Boys	53%	
Students with an Education Health and Care Plan (previously a statement of special educational needs)	4.0%	The Barnet average is 2.7%. (School Performance in Barnet, 2015)
EAL (students who do not have English as a first language or it is not the language spoken at home)	31%	The Barnet average for EAL students is 38.9%. (School Performance in Barnet, 2015) <i>N.B. English is a barrier to learning for only 3% of our students.</i>
Students eligible for pupil premium funding	25.2%	The Barnet average is 30.1%. (School Performance in Barnet, 2015)
Academically gifted students	18.4%	The national average in 2011 was 14.2%. (DfE, 2011)

Attendance: 2016-17

95.04% (excl. students off roll and educated offsite)

National average: 94.7% (DfE, Secondary school performance tables 2015).

Barnet average: 95.1% (DfE, Secondary school performance tables 2015).

- **Attendance is above the national average for the student population as a whole.**

Academic progress: 2016-17

This is an exciting year as our first cohort of students will finish Year 11 next summer. However, that means that unlike other schools, we do not currently have any GCSE results to report. Nevertheless, we pay close attention to the progress of our students, using a robust system of monitoring and external benchmarking, both to ensure that they are on track to succeed and to inform our strategies for teaching and learning.

Reporting on this is complicated by recent changes to forms of assessment and measures of progress used by the government. However, we are confident that our students are on track to show strong progress from Key Stage 2 and our analysis of the assessment data for the Year 10 cohort collected in July 2016 suggests that **our student body is on track to exceed national expectations for progress.**



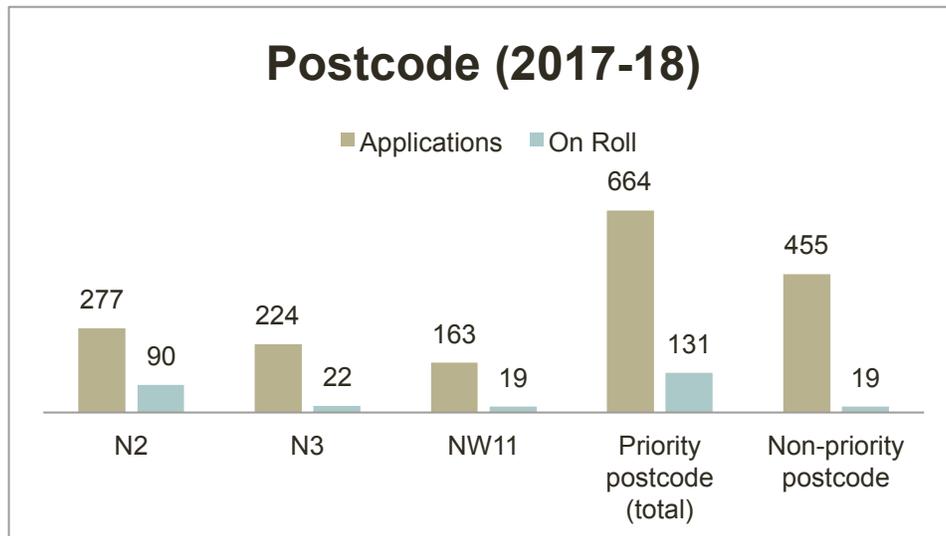
Admissions, September 2017

Once again, we received around 950 applications for the 150 places available for September 2017 entry.

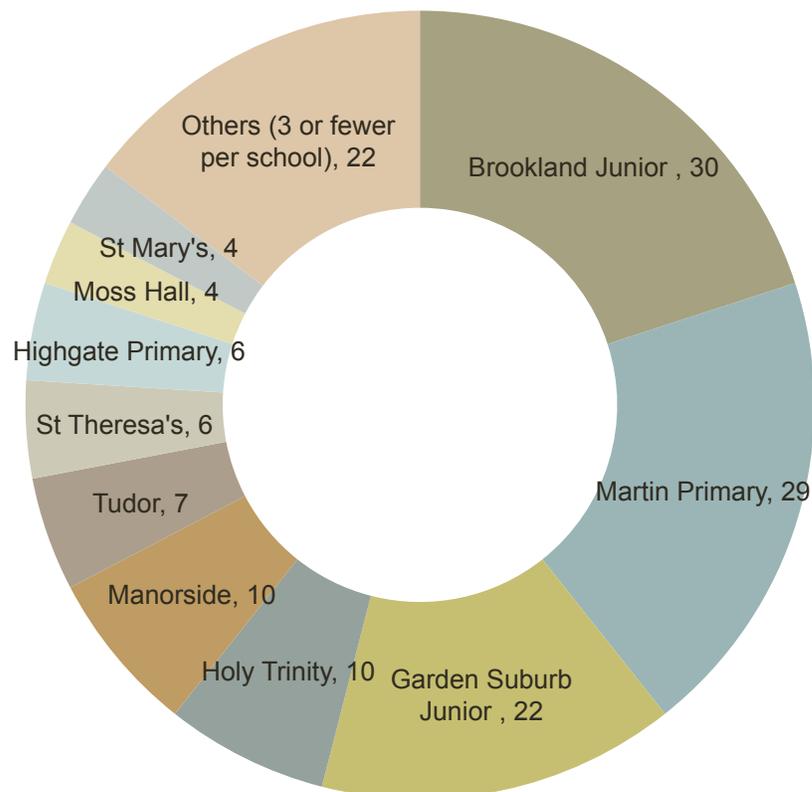
For September 2017, the admissions criteria included a number of feeder places as well as places secured purely on the basis of proximity to the school. This meant that for 2017 admissions, while straight proximity places were not offered outside N2, a number of feeder places were given to those living in the other two priority postcodes.

The Archer Academy Trust will continue to monitor the admissions data in the years ahead.

All data correct as of
4th September 2017.



Primary school of students (2017-18)



Looking ahead

In the academic year 2017-2018, we are looking to ensure that we continually train and develop as a board so that we are up-to-date with the latest developments in education and safeguarding. The current financial climate is affecting all schools, so we aim to redouble our fundraising efforts in order to provide the best opportunities and facilities for our students. Our major campaign is to raise money for our Upper School, to 'Make Beaumont Brilliant'.

Furthermore, we hope to develop closer working partnerships with the governing bodies of our partner primary schools and colleges.

We look forward to supporting our first ever cohort of students taking their GCSE's next summer. So, we will be working in partnership with the staff to ensure that our school can continue to be a supportive, academically challenging environment for students and staff alike.

For support of many and various kinds over the past year, we would like to thank:

Alison Moore, Alpkit Foundation, Arjun Mittra, Atkin Charitable Foundation, Bernard Manson, Brightbox Marketing, Charities Advisory Trust, East Finchley Open Artists, Elisca Coelho, Finchley Youth Theatre, First Kicks, Fortitude Dance Company, Full Circle Drama Club, GLH, Grahams Butchers, Hampstead Dyslexia Clinic, Haven Estate Agents, Ian Ayres, Isobel Collinge, Jeremy Leaf Estate Agents, John Lyons Foundation, Josephine's florist, Kinder Kitchen, King's College London, Liz Sacre, London Marathon Charitable Trust, Melinda Athinodorou, Mike Freer MP, Natalia Cid, Pat Leacock, Peter Copley, Philip Vile Photography, Saracens, Stormont LTRSC, Tatlers Estate Agents, TaxAssist Accountants, Tesco Groundworks, The Archer Newspaper, The Big Lottery Fund, Tony's Continental, Zoe Walsh, Sara Wolfin.

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Governor Name	Committees/ Responsibilities	Type
Avis Johns	Chair of Governors Education & Standards	Founder / Trust Member
Bryan Marcus	Co-Vice Chair of Governors Chair, Resources Pay Committee	Community
Andry Moustras	Co-Vice Chair of Governors Pastoral & Wellbeing Fundraising & Bus Dev Link, MFL & Humanities Link Governor Coordinator	Community
Toby Blume	Chair, Finance & Audit Fundraising Communications Pay Committee Link, School Council	Founder / Trust Member
Martin Bright	Communications Fundraising & Bus Dev	Parent
Patricia Choiral	Chair, Pastoral & Wellbeing Finance & Audit Link, Safeguarding	Community
Louise Dobrin	Resources	Community
Cathy Halstead	Education & Standards Communications Link, SEND	Founder / Governor
Jon Hindmarsh	Chair, Education & Standards Chair, Pay Committee Link, Thematic Learning	Founder / Governor
Sanjay Maraj	Pastoral & Wellbeing Resources	Founder / Chair of the Trust
Jo Moses	Pastoral & Wellbeing	Community
Sarah Pearce	Chair, Fundraising & Bus Dev Resources Company Secretary	Founder / Trust Member
Seema Shah	Finance & Audit Fundraising & Bus Dev	Community
Ben Whittaker	Education & Standards Link, Post-16	Community
Lucy Harrison	Headteacher	
Anne-Marie Canning	Education & Standards Focus: Widening participation	Associate Governor
Roger Chapman	Resources Focus: Community Use	Associate Governor / Trust Member
Gary Bilkus	Resources Focus: ICT	Associate Governor
Ian Warwick	Education & Standards Focus: Gifted & Talented	Associate Governor
Karen Harris	Clerk	

Headteacher: Ms L Harrison
Proprietor: The Archer Academy Trust