



Message from Kevin McKellar

Dear Parent/Carer,

Enjoy the forthcoming holiday period. Thanks to the parents who have helped us with behaviour around the school and challenging punctuality to lessons etc. We are all so enormously grateful to Jacqui Jack for leading on Parent Voice. She has already come up with some incredible ideas and she will be meeting with the governing body in the new year.

An important point to note is that we have 4 new Assistant Headteachers taking up key posts in January:-

- Alice Miller will be leading on pedagogy for learning looking at all aspects of classroom practice to improve the quality of teaching in the classroom. If you have any ideas about how we can improve any aspect of this practice then please email Alice on MillerA@hendonschool.co.uk.
- Ron Spicer will be leading on the climate for learning. This will include developing homework strategies, improving the quality of the MLE, improving the learning environment around the school etc. Please email Ron your ideas on SpicerR@hendonschool.co.uk.
- Roxanne Lashley will be leading on behaviour for learning. This will include our detention system, exclusions, behaviour in the classroom etc. Please email Roxanne on LashleyR@hendonschool.co.uk.
- Noelle Doona will be leading on community for learning. This will be looking at how we improve parental participation, working with our local community as well as our international community. Again, any ideas please email Noelle on DoonaN@hendonschool.co.uk.

I am very pleased with the progress that the school is making. In January, we will receive an official copy of our RAISEonline data. This is the real statement about how well our school is doing, especially in relation to closing gaps and looking at all aspects of student achievement, including our high attaining students. At the moment, our RAISEonline data is looking absolutely incredible. We have continued to close the gap between the free school meal and the non free school meal students. The English department is in the top 1% of the country as is humanities. Our maths department is in the top 3% of the country. Science and modern foreign languages continue to impress by being in the top 4% of the country.

Nationally, results went down this year. At Hendon they went up by 15%. We are all absolutely thrilled with our data and I am enormously grateful to all of our members of staff for working tirelessly to continue to raise standards.

There is a lovely quote on my wall about living in the moment:-

*Live like heaven on earth,
Love like you have never been hurt,
Sing as if no one can hear,
Dance as if no one is watching,
Play like there are no winners,
Give like you have plenty,
Smile till your face hurts,
Cherish your family and friends every day.*

Have a very well deserved rest. Thank you for supporting the school and we look forward to working with you in the new year.

Kind regards,

Kevin McKellar

Message from the Chair of Governors - Hendon School

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to have this opportunity of writing to you. I became a Governor at Hendon School in 2008 and Chair in 2010. From the start it has been a privilege working with Kevin McKellar and his colleagues.

My own background is in education and, as a Headteacher in two different secondary schools, I have had considerable experience of Governing Bodies. As many Headteachers will testify, it is quite common to have passengers on Governing Bodies - those who attend meetings occasionally and offer little else. At Hendon we are incredibly fortunate to have a team of Governors who all contribute an enormous amount in a great variety of ways e.g. helping to write school policies, conducting disciplinary hearings, recruiting staff, finance (running Hendon School with its budget of nearly £10 million is like running a medium sized business!), special needs. In addition, many Governors bring to bear their own expertise from beyond the world of education for the benefit of the school. A significant number make invaluable contributions as parents of students at Hendon. I really appreciate the enormous contribution they all make - as does Mr McKellar.

However, what makes all this voluntary work so worthwhile is seeing the school, from year to year, go from strength to strength. For example, this year's GCSE results put Hendon amongst the top schools in the country for the progress that students make. And 'progress' is the only meaningful measure of how well a school is serving its students. For example, figures across some of the main subject areas are as follows:- English (top 1% nationally), Maths (top 3% nationally), Science (top 4% nationally), Languages (top 4% nationally) and Humanities (top 1% nationally). Fantastic results that any school in the country would be proud of!

The above results are not just a tribute to the school's leadership but to the immense contribution made by all staff - a real team effort.

As Governors we will continue to provide all the support we can to ensure that progress is maintained.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year from all of us.

Andrew Macalpine