



## Elemore Hall School

### Skills Audit

Governors completed a Skills Audit in January 2019. This gave a summary of the strengths of the governing body and the areas for development. It will be placed in the governor section of the school website. A training session for governors on roles, responsibilities and school improvement will be held next term.

### Governor Training

Governors continue to support the Durham County Governor training programme. In 2018-19 governors have attended a range of courses including:-

- SEND – Governor Responsibilities
- School's Financial Value Standard
- Governor Induction
- Cutting the cost of the school day
- GDPR, FOI and cyber security
- Taking the Chair
- Budget Planning and monitoring

Elemore is a member of the National Association of Governors (N.G.A.) This gives governor access to a weekly newsletter, termly magazine and access to on-line resources in the NGA guidance centre.

Membership is linked to an on-line governor training platform with over 50 different training modules.

### New School Website

This term the school has been working with Durham L.A. to develop a new website. This website is now compliant with the Ofsted framework. Governors commented on the bright photographs and positive images of students. The website is easy to navigate for parents and has information about members of the governing body.

**Several governors attended an excellent, three course Christmas lunch in December. It was followed by a splendid production of "Oliver!" which was enjoyed by a large and enthusiastic audience of staff, parents, students and governors. The hard work of staff and students was clear to see. Generous donations raised over £300 for the toilet twinning charity.**



**toilet twinning**

# Governor Up-date

## Spring term 2019

### Governor Committees

These committees met in November 2018 and again in January/February 2019.

#### Finance, Personnel and School Environment

The issues discussed included:-

- An up-date on the school budget including details about buildings refurbishment, the purchase of a new minibus and the sale of the old one. ICT equipment has been replaced. The CCTV system, incorporating new cameras, has been up-graded. The most recent budget statement indicated a positive position for the school.
- The Internal Audit report.
- A review of how Pupil Premium and Year 7 Catch-up Funding was spent last year.
- Health & Safety issues
- Possible Broadband solutions
- Grounds issues with dangerous trees due to the stormy weather last term.

Governors had the opportunity to look around classrooms at the end of the meeting. All were impressed with the excellent state of repair and by the equipment in departments such as Music. A new room for maths withdrawal is having a positive impact on pupil progress.

#### Curriculum, Standards and ECM

Standing items for this committee are:-

**Safeguarding** – amongst many items discussed governors were pleased to hear that the anti-bullying work and the drugs ambassador programme were both having a positive impact.

**Attendance** – this is still a concern. However the overall school attendance figure (82.9%) does not reflect the attendance of most pupils. A very small number of pupils reduce the overall figure significantly.

**Major incidents** – there has been a huge improvement since last year (124 incidents reduced to 33). A greater focus on positive reports and rewards plays a key role in this improvement.

**Feedback from PAMs** – very positive from both parents and pupils.

**The curriculum, data and examination results** were all discussed. Year 11 destinations in 2018 indicated no NEETs. An increasing number of pupils has achieved improved grades in English language and literature. There is still work to in maths. The wide curriculum gives pupils a broad range of skills and is well suited to their individual needs. This approach fits in well with the new Ofsted framework.