



**Annual Report
2019—2020**

Introduction from Jenny Baker Headteacher

Dear Carers and Parents

Welcome to the 2019 - 2020 Annual Report.

This year has certainly been different; we have all had to adapt to the challenges of finding new ways of living, working and communicating and the Annual Report is no exception. As not all learners are in school at the moment, we have had to ensure that everyone can still receive a copy of the report. This electronic version is shorter than usual but we hope you all enjoy reading it.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school. The whole staffing team have worked really hard to provide learning activities to support your young people whether they have been at home and/or in school. The weekly newsletters have shown some of the great things your young people have achieved and enjoyed during this period.

Some of the building works that started before lockdown were able to continue and some photographs feature later in this report. Over the Summer holidays we will continue to prepare the classrooms and outdoor spaces for the safe return of your young people in their 'Bubbles' and 'Class Teams'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin and the Site Team for their continued hard work and their flexibility in facilitating these works. I was successful in bidding for further additional funding totalling £500,000 which will be used to enhance our outdoor learning spaces over the forthcoming academic year.

I hope you all have a happy and safe Summer. All of the team at Kennel Lane School are looking forward to welcoming everybody back in September.

Best wishes,



**Jenny Baker
Headteacher**

Letter from Peter Floyd Chair of Governors

From a governance perspective, this school year has been 'a game of two halves' as it has been in all of our lives, sailing smoothly along one minute and then the next everything is completely different. Although a review of the full year shouldn't over focus on the Coronavirus effect, it is inevitable that it will feature. For our Governing Body it highlighted clearly the strengths of the school and we were proud of the way in which everyone reacted with the best interests of our learners at the forefront.



Governors have had to learn to adapt to the 'new normal' too and have moved all our Governing Board meetings online, enabling us to develop new skills in the area of effective virtual meetings.

Governance is mandated to have three key tasks:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the performance management of staff
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

At the start of this school year we moved from fulfilling these obligations using a committee structure to a 'one team' approach. This has produced several benefits including reducing duplication and giving all Governors a wider understanding of the whole school. To maintain consistency, we continued to provide focus for our meetings by using the previous committee responsibilities of Quality of Education, Finance and Site, and Staffing.

We were pleased to see the TALENTS Curriculum being embedded with the focus on each young person's TALENTS Journey, recognising that each of our learners is different and celebrating each individual's development and achievement.

During the height of the Coronavirus period, we were particularly pleased to see the school ethos of caring for our school community demonstrated through the level of regular contact with learners, families and staff and would like to thank everyone for their enthusiastic commitment at a very difficult time.

Governors have the responsibility for overseeing the financial resources available to us as a school. A major task is preparing the annual budget and considering what we need to spend on certain key areas. Our priorities for spending are all based on what we are trying to do through the School Improvement Plan: everything aimed at improving outcomes for our learners.



Our largest and most important area of expenditure is on staff – teachers, assistants, administrative and site staff, and this not only includes salaries but also our investment in continuous training and ongoing recruitment. The school is focused on ensuring that we have the right people, with the right skills, to ensure that we can provide the very best experience for our learners.

All staff training is linked to our School Development Plan priorities and this year we are continuing to focus on monitoring the impact of our training so that we can ensure that we are getting the maximum benefit from any training which takes place.



Despite the lockdown, our staff have continued to take advantage of training and development opportunities by taking part in training via online platforms. In addition, as a Governing Body, we now review the key learnings from all the training that Governors undertake so that we can continue to build on what we do well, as well as identify areas that we can develop further.

We are also continuing to recruit for the future, despite the challenges of lockdown, so that we can ensure we have the best staff possible to provide the best outcomes for our learners when they return to school.

Resources for learning is also a major area of investment and we have focused this year on ensuring that the right equipment and materials are available for all aspects of the TALENTS Curriculum.



The third area of note is our expenditure on the school site and premises. Working with Jenny and her team, we have been determined to ensure that our learners experience an environment that is safe and secure, but also stimulating and attractive with facilities that are second to none. We are delighted with the improvements that have been made this year – large projects described elsewhere and continued refurbishment of other areas. We are currently working with Bracknell Forest on the development of a £0.5m project to enhance outside areas over the coming twelve months.

One of our challenges as Governors is ensuring that we understand the views of parents. Our constitution includes two places for Parent Governors, one of which is currently vacant and we would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining us – we'll explain what it entails before any commitment is necessary. Alternatively, if you don't think that it's for you then we would be pleased to hear any suggestions about how we can regularly hear the views of parents – please contact the Clerk to Governors on clerk@kennellaneschool.com



Primary, Secondary and Woodlands Hub

In September, Key Stage 1 moved into newly refurbished classrooms including a dark sensory space, group room and a continuous provision area for Sapphire which provides on-going learning opportunities for role play, mark making and number. New outside fencing also enabled each class group to have their own outdoor learning space to enhance their curriculum.

This year, the whole school TALENTS Curriculum has continued to enhance teaching and learning within Primary. A rolling programme of topics based on first hand investigation and experience have been delivered. Each topic has a specific subject focus to ensure broad and balanced curriculum coverage across the year.

Additional learning experiences have been incorporated through termly STEM days and 'World of Work' days which have enabled learners to encounter first-hand some job roles and begin to learn about employability. In October, there was a focus on jobs with animals.



We have continued to develop PE and sport in Primary this year and have been very fortunate to have both Reading Football Club and London Irish deliver weekly football and tag rugby sessions to Key Stage 2. Some of our learners have been offsite to participate in events with local schools including a Boccia Tournament at Easthampstead Park. In March, we took part in the whole school event for Sports Relief and learners participated in a sponsored walk either around the school grounds or off site.

Music for Autism and our hugely popular 'All Join In' sessions have continued this year and have provided valuable opportunities for families to get together and socialise whilst spending time with their young people.

We were enjoying a busy year in the **Secondary** department before activities were curtailed by Covid-19 and the lockdown. The KS3 topic curriculum fired learner's imaginations with a trip to 'Alchemy Island', where we looked at portals and used IT to create animated portal pictures and 3D island models.

In the first part of the Spring Term, KS3 studied the Black Death and its terrible effects. We enjoyed the 'Plague Play in a Day' with a visiting drama company.

KS3 proved to be extraordinary entrepreneurs and made a massive effort for the Christmas Fayre, making decorations and other items using the Talentino Bambino resources. It was an extremely competitive event with Oak class making over £100 of profit from their designs.

Bay class were involved in a Dragons Den activity at Legal & General Homes where they had to present their designs to the "dragons" in the boardroom to gain orders. This contributed to our employer encounters, as well as our enterprise curriculum.

Careers were the focus once again when a group of Year 9 learners visited the Bucklers Park housing development for a talk on careers in the construction industry. All of KS3 also visited Odds Farm on a 'World of Work' day to learn how the employees there look after all of the animals. They also enjoyed some animal encounters whilst they were there.

The Nurture Curriculum was introduced into Secondary this year with time for nurture 'check-ins' at the beginning and the end of the school day. Learners began practising important life skills of preparing tables and clearing away afterwards as part of lunchtimes within

classrooms. This also gave learners a chance to chat about their mornings and talk over any concerns before the afternoon lessons.

The whole of KS3 have taken full advantage of the external PE coaches, Children in Need day, Multicultural days and STEM days, where a full programme of activities has found something to interest every learner.

During the Autumn Term, Year 11 students participated in Working Experience Week, during which they visited a range of work places including 3M, Jealott's Hill Land Share and Jock's Lane Park, where they experienced being a Park Ranger. Some KS4 learners worked this year with students from Garth Hill College on 'Project Unified'. This is a programme which promotes mainstream and special needs students to work together to train for and participate in a basketball competition. All students involved participated well.

Despite a difficult second half of the academic year, many of our learners have engaged well with the remote learning tasks that have been set. Some learners have made impressive progress on the Lexia literacy programme, learnt new skills such as cooking and also learnt how to make cups of tea and coffee.

The **Woodlands Hub** have had another busy year, with a great deal of fun and learning along the way. We are proud of our young people who continue to be engaged, communicative and independent learners.

Our new curriculum, which ties in with the wider school TALENTS curriculum, was launched this academic year. Learners have taken part in engaging experiences and activities through each of the six curriculum areas: My Explorations, My Interactions, My Independence, My Emotions, My Movements and My Senses.

Learners continue to access the Additional Provisions, either as a 1-1 session or in a small group. Learners are continuing to enjoy Outdoor Learning sessions, both in the Woodlands Hub garden and the larger Forest School area. Learners have enjoyed exploring the natural environment: making bird feeders; planting plants; and exploring and creating with natural materials such as sticks and leaves.



The Autumn Term topic was 'All About Me', the aim of which was to create awareness of people within the community who are able to help us and keep us safe. Music for Autism visited in the Autumn Term and Woodlands Hub learners enthusiastically took part in their Christmas production alongside their departments (Primary or Secondary).



Our Spring Term topic was 'On the Farm'. Visits from Miller's Ark Mobile Farm and ZooLab created many memorable experiences for our learners. Learners also attended a Chicken Theatre workshop, where they were immersed in a story about a chicken farm through exploring different textures and sounds.

Community Links continued throughout the year for all classes; some ventured out into the community for the first time with their class teams and were given the opportunity to transfer and apply skills, for example, communication.

The start of the Summer Term was certainly unprecedented. Due to the 'stay at home' rules, teachers emailed the young people in their class suggested activities around the Summer Term topic, Picnic. It was wonderful to receive lots of pictures from parents and carers of their young person immersed in various activities, including picnics in the garden!

Building Works and Other Improvements



The cookery room is being totally renovated, this is still in progress.



KS3 Horticulture garden, poly-tunnel and new ramp



Learners will be able to access shared areas and resources when it is safe to do so.

The beginnings of the Secondary Computer Suite / Training room



Primary has been redecorated



New 14 – 19 Horticulture poly-tunnel



Term Dates 2020 - 2021

Autumn 2020

Staff training days:
(school closed to students)

Tuesday 1st September 2020
Wednesday 2nd September 2020

1st Half Term starts on:
Term ends on:

Thursday 3rd September 2020
Friday 23rd October 2020

October Holiday:

Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30th October 2020

2nd Half Term starts on
Term ends on:

Monday 2nd November 2020
Friday 18th December 2020 at 1pm

Christmas Holiday:

Monday 21st December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021

Spring 2021

1st Half Term starts on:
Term ends on:

Monday 4th January 2021
Friday 12th February 2021

February Holiday:

Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 19th February 2021

2nd Half Term starts on
Term ends on:

Monday 22nd February 2021
Thursday 1st April 2021 at 1pm

Spring Holiday:

Friday 2nd April 2021 to Friday 16th April 2021
(Good Friday – 2nd April 2021; Easter Monday – 5th April 2021)

Summer 2021

1st Half Term starts on:
Term ends on:

Monday 19th April 2021
Friday 28th May 2021

Bank Holiday

May Day – Monday 3rd May 2021

May Holiday:

Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021
(Spring Bank Holiday – 31st May 2021)

2nd Half Term starts on
Term ends on:

Monday 7th June 2021
Friday 16th July 2021 at 1pm

Staff training days:
(school closed to students)

Monday 19th July 2021
Tuesday 20th July 2021
Wednesday 21st July 2021