



Kirkbie Kendal School

**GOVERNORS'
REPORT TO
PARENTS/CARERS**

**Autumn
2021**

Dear Parents and Carers

Governors' Report to Parents 2020/21

This has been my first year as Chair of Governors and I wanted to begin by thanking both my predecessor, Mike Duff, who resigned in November 2020 and the other Governors who give their time, skills and energy so freely to support our school.

This last year has confirmed the importance of us all working together more than ever. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that we have all faced restrictions on our daily lives with many of us having to adapt to remote learning and working for parts of last year and it is our partnership between our students, our staff and yourselves which has seen us through those challenges. It was, though, very heartening to see the enthusiasm and energy around school when our students returned.

The school has been oversubscribed now for a number of years and that is due to the hard work and dedication of our staff who have helped to reinforce our reputation as a school where there is something to inspire and encourage every student. It has been a whole team effort but I would like to single out our Headteacher Phil Hyman who retired at the end of the academic year after almost eighteen years in post. It was Phil who first introduced our values of hard work, care, courtesy and consideration and reflected them in his own contribution to school life. We wish him well for his retirement and welcome Mark Harris into his new role as our Headteacher.

I believe that we are an excellent school and I am looking forward to the coming year and whatever opportunities and challenges we face along the way.

With kind regards



Sally Parnaby
Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

Governors' Report to Parents 2020/21

I am delighted to be writing to you as Headteacher of Kirkbie Kendal School to report on the achievements of our students and to thank parents, teachers, support staff, Trustees and Governors for their hard work in support of our school.

It is that partnership, that sense of a school community that got us through another year impacted by Covid-19. We are all incredibly proud of the resilience shown by our students who have, without complaint, worn their masks in lessons, kept bubble compliant, worked from home during lockdown and learnt how to navigate Google Classroom. They have done this whilst caring for each other with good humour and without complaint.

Thank you to the parents and carers who supported our students, particularly during lockdown, with the challenges of working from home and supporting students with their online lessons.

School always remained open for our vulnerable students and children of key workers. In common with all schools, remote education was the teaching method of necessity for most of the Spring term for all of our students. In addition to this, there were many students whose attendance was disrupted by the need to self-isolate because they were a close contact of someone who had Covid-19 or they had Covid-19 themselves.

With very little notice we became a testing centre, delivering 3581 tests to students in three separate sessions in school. Staff members donned PPE, learnt new procedures and turned in to an incredibly efficient testing machine, processing hundreds of students a day.

With the fantastic team of staff, students, governors, trustees and parents we look forward to another successful year.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr Mark Harris
Headteacher

Results 2021

It was disappointing that our students did not get the opportunity to demonstrate their learning in exams, however, the grades awarded do reflect their progress. The grades were awarded using moderated assessments and mark schemes that were applied with rigour by the school through the process of Centre Assessment. We are all proud of our students' successes and the amount of academic progress that they have made.

A Level

Excellent results were achieved by students at A Level.

A*- A 47% of grades

A*- B 71% of grades

A* - C 88% of grades

Due to the hard work of students and staff in achieving these results, 100% of our students were able to move on to a university of their choice, high level apprenticeships or employment. As always, we are delighted to see our students moving onto the next stage of their lives with exciting and challenging opportunities, some of which included high level apprenticeships with BAE Systems and Mardix, a golf scholarship in the USA, degrees in English Literature, Politics, Finance and Accounting, Educational Psychology and Game Art as well as some fantastic gap year plans.

GCSE

Year 11 students worked hard in challenging circumstances to achieve their grades which were excellent.

5+ in English and Maths 53%

4+ in English and Maths 77%

Attainment 8 grade 51 points

Staffing News

We extend a very warm welcome to:

Mrs Clarke (Receptionist)

Mr Taylor (Learning Support Progress Mentor)

Mr Stacey (Technology teacher)

Mrs Tennant (Learning Manager)

Mrs Graham (Progress Mentor)

Mr Longcake (ICT support)

Mrs Hastie (Mathematics teacher)

Mrs Mellor (Senior Learning Manager)

Mr Humpage (PE teacher)

We welcome them and wish them every success in their careers at Kirkbie Kendal School.

We say farewell, thank you and send our best wishes to colleagues who left this year:

Mrs Carlton (English)

Mr Williams (Learning Manager)

Mrs Baines (Receptionist)

Mrs McMullen (Business Studies)

Mr Smith (Learning Manager)

Mrs Rosa (Mathematics)

Mr Elliott (ICT support)

Mr Armstrong (Technology teacher)

Mr Wilson (Progress Manager)

Mrs C Seville (Progress Manager)

and of course, Mr P Hyman, Headteacher.

Events and Activities

Students in all years demonstrated consistently their considerate and caring attitudes, particularly in their support of one another during the national lockdown. They have, for example, worked on projects for Young Minds, Papyrus and Children in Need. The School Council organised collections for the Kings Food Bank. Students have also made a significant contribution to increasing school recycling and raising environmental awareness within school.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award managed a small window of opportunity so that both last year's postponed expedition and this year's planned expedition for the bronze award were able to take place, with around 100 students being able to complete the award this year.

In Maths, 54 Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the UK Maths challenges across the year. Students gained gold, silver or bronze certificates. The Year 7 Science Club made potions, fireworks and slime. Girls' Robotics Club continued to grow, learning to manoeuvre and programme their robots. The Year 9 team have built a competition robot and are programming it to complete a variety of different obstacle courses. Year 9 geographers enjoyed an interesting visit to Heysham power station and the Year 12 geographers managed to carry out fieldwork in Liverpool shortly ahead of lockdown being implemented.

Creative and Performing Arts and Sporting Success

The planned programme of sporting and creative events and activities was severely disrupted by Covid-19. However, the show must go on, so rehearsals for *Grease* took place and *Grease* is being performed at the Brewery Arts Centre in December.

In sport: in tennis Billy Blaydes (Y13) played at the Wimbledon Junior Tennis tournament. In rugby Aaron Stephens (Y11) and Reuben Dyer (Y10) were selected to train with Newcastle Falcons Academy and Aaron will train with the U17 group this season. Finlay Robinson (Y10), Feddie Ince (Y10) and Evan Beattie (Y9) also trained in the Cumbria Developing Player Programme this year. Katie Jackson (Y10) gained a place in the Cumbria county netball team. In football Clara Samson (Y10) has continued to play for Blackburn Rover Ladies RTC U16 team, helping them to win the U16 North West League. Abbie Jones (Y11) has signed a contract with Preston Women's team (Y11). Aaliyah Pearson (Y7) has again been signed by Manchester United's academy. Tilly Nicholls (Y10) won the Westmorland FA Rising Star of the Year for her commitment to football playing, coaching and refereeing. In Athletics Annie Taylor (Y12) qualified for the Track and Field (Hurdles) and Combined Events National Finals. In Cricket Oscar Coxon (Y10), Louis Bigland (Y9), Clara Samson (Y10), Grace Airey (Y8) and Grace Irving (Y7) have also represented Cumbria this season in cricket. In Hockey Ethan Elleray (Y10) and Finlay Robinson (Y10) were both selected for the Regional Performance Centre.

Site and Facilities

Our work on improving the facilities of the school continues and we completed phase two of the £1.4 million pound refurbishment of the buildings and improvement of teaching rooms. I am also pleased to report that we have secured Government funding for another £300,000 for fire security and refurbishment with work starting in the New Year.

The Future

Our values do not change. The school is still all about hard work, care, courtesy and consideration. We will continue to develop our students as well rounded and confident individuals and to improve our teaching so that students have the very best classroom experience in order to they achieve the best possible exam outcomes. In particular this year a focus on:

- Disadvantaged students who have been particularly affected by the lockdowns (attendance, engagement and progress)
- Professionally curious staff further improving the Teaching and Learning in classrooms
- Adapting the curriculum due to the impacts of Covid-19 to ensure that students are not disadvantaged
- Sixth Form leadership opportunities and providing the best possible Sixth Form experience
- Estate Management Strategy and to further improve the site.