

Welcome to our Spring Local Governing Board Newsletter



Hello Everyone – I can't believe it's nearly three months since I last wrote to you in December.

I thought we must be getting close to Easter when I visited Discovery Academy last week only to find an Easter egg hunt in progress.

If you haven't yet seen the photographs of the hunt you can see them on twitter [@Discovery_Hyde](https://twitter.com/Discovery_Hyde). A huge thank you to the PTFA for their support with the Easter Egg hunt and raffle.

Let's also hope that we've seen the last of the snow this year. Thank you for your understanding when we were forced to close the Academy. This is always a very difficult decision and one that isn't taken lightly. As you are all aware, the conditions around the Academy and on the surrounding estates were very difficult to navigate and even our Site Manager had to be towed off site by a snow plough.

There has been lots of exciting activity this term at Discovery: Nursery and Reception have visited Cockfields Farm and I can't believe the Queen and her loyal knight visited the Academy too.

As you know, in these Newsletters we tell you more about the Local Governing Board and the work that we do. Our role is to make key decisions that affect the education and well-being of the pupils and we are a vital part to the successful running of the Academy. If you need to contact me, please contact the Academy office.

Garry White (Chair)

The role of Governors

Just as a reminder about what our work involves: As a governor we work closely with the Executive Principal, Associate Principal and the Trust in three key ways.

- **Setting the Academies vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- **Holding the Executive Principal and Associate Principal to account for the educational performance of the Academy and its pupils; and**
- **Overseeing the financial performance of the Academy and making sure money is well spent.**

We do this by meeting once a term as a full Governing Body and from the Summer term 2018 we will begin to hold two committees where we discuss finance and pupil and staff welfare. We keep a very close eye on how the school is performing and we support and challenge many aspects of the school's work.

Please see over for more information

Keeping Informed



If you don't yet follow the Academy on twitter you can do so by following the link. https://twitter.com/Discovery_Hyde. All of the class teachers have their own twitter pages as well as the link above for the main Twitter page. We also have a Facebook page Discovery Hyde.

You can see on here the huge amount of exciting work that takes place in the classes every day at Discovery and keep up to date when the Academy needs to tell you about important events and school closures.

Update

It has also been a very busy start to the year in terms of the Trust. You won't have escaped the news about Carillion, and we are now happy to inform you that we have a new board of Trustees of the Victorious Academies Trust. These Trustees have met twice this term, and it is to them that the local governing body reports. In future newsletters we will tell you more about the work of the Trustees and who they are. You can find out more by looking at their web site – www.victoriousacademies.org.

Despite Carillion going into liquidation the service to both the Academy and the pupils was managed smoothly both by the Trust and the leadership at the Academy. Roles like the site manager and cleaning staff have now been brought into the Trust. The Academy has also employed a further caretaker and cleaner to support the upkeep of the school site. The catering has been taken over by Mellor's catering and we have managed to keep all our valued staff.

The Trust is looking to grow, encouraging existing schools to join the family along with Discovery Academy. This way we can ensure that even more children can receive the very best education that we can offer.

We are delighted that two local schools have expressed interest in joining our Trust. The parents of both Pinfold and Arundale Primary Schools have been informed that their Governing Bodies have registered their interest and these schools would be a great addition to the Trust should this be approved. Their interest is now registered with the Department for Education and Regional Schools Commissioner.



All Governors would like to wish all our staff, pupils and their families a restful break over Easter and look forward to seeing you in April 2018.



Victorious Academies Trust

Success in education