

13 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

News from the Governors

Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I am writing on behalf of the Governors to share key information about your school and its governance. As you will have seen in separate communications, we have now transitioned to be part of the Ascendancy Partnership Trust (APT), a multi-academy trust. We congratulate Joolz Scarlett for being selected as the first Chief Executive Officer of the Trust and we also congratulate Helen Hannam on her promotion to be our Headteacher. Governors now constitute a Committee of the Trust known as the Local Governing Board (LGB).

The Governors are:

Parent Governors	Andy Craig Tabitha Marsh
Staff Governor	Lesley Jewitt
Co-opted Governors	Simon Calvert Colin Hayfield Ash Patel Richard Pelly Peter Thorn Amy Crowle
Ex-Officio Governor	Helen Hannam, Headteacher
Clerk to the Governors	Sharon Glover

The responsibilities of Governors remain:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

For further information about Governors, please visit the school website and explore the 'Governing Board' page within the 'About our school' option.

We would always be keen to hear from anybody who might be interested in becoming a governor. If this could be you, please do contact me or the Headteacher to discuss what this would involve.

Governors have agreed several priorities for the academic year, but their overriding focus is to settle into the Ascendancy Partnership Trust and to establish and develop the benefits that this offers.

We are in year 3 of our 3-year School Development Plan for 2022 to 2025. You can view it on the school website by going to the 'About our School' option, and then clicking on 'School Development'.

Reflecting on the last academic year, we are especially pleased to highlight that in addition to the extraordinary efforts that went into getting the Multi Academy Trust up and running:

- There was a lot of work supporting student attendance. Our absences are now largely due to the significant medical needs of our students.
- There was much effort developing exciting new opportunities for our students, including the commercial kitchen teaching facility, the apprenticeships initiative and the college link.
- Governors have been pleased during their visits to witness a happy, well-ordered and enthusiastic environment in the school.

Although we are predicting a small financial surplus on 31 March 2025, we expect significant challenges balancing the longer-term budget in the years ahead. Staff costs, which absorb most of our budget, are increasing more rapidly than the corresponding grants and income. We expect that being part of the APT will help to ease the financial pressures. More financial information is in the Annex.

Staff recruitment also remains a challenge. You may be able to help. If you know anybody thinking about their employment, please encourage them to look at the list of job vacancies on our website <https://www.manorgreenschool.co.uk/jobs/vacancies>. There is a range of opportunities and most offer good career development prospects.

On a personal note, I have now been the Chair of Governors for nearly eight years. I am continually impressed by the cheerfulness and commitment of the staff, and their impressive impact on the students. I am proud to be the Chair of Governors, but sad to report that I am now stepping down from the Chair. As one of the founding Trustees of the Ascendancy Partnership Trust I am not permitted to continue as a Governor. Colin Hayfield has been elected to succeed me as Chairman and I wish him well in the role.

Finally, we are very grateful for the partnership working between parents and the school that helps our students do their best. We look forward to seeing our dedicated staff and the good outcomes for students continuing to enhance the reputation of Manor Green School as the Centre of Excellence for Inclusion, and one of the most successful special schools in the country.

Yours sincerely



Richard Pelly
Chair of Governors February 2017 to December 2024
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ANNEX: Financial Information

This Annex provides more information about the financial situation.

Summary Table	1 Apr 19 - 31 Mar 20 Actual	1 Apr 20 - 31 Mar 21 Actual	1 Apr 21 - 31 Mar 22 Actual	1 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23 Actual	1 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24 Actual	1 Apr 24 - 31 Mar 25 Forecast
Total income: £k	8,428	9,132	9,763	10,119	11,265	12,278
Total expenditure: £k	7,895	8,548	9,495	10,704	11,701	12,290
Carry forward: £k	-19	565	833	248	144	132
Student numbers (Full time equivalent)	263 September 19 intake	270.5 September 20 intake	283.5 October 21 census	294 October 22 census	294 October 23 census	294 October 24 census

Notes:

Our careful stewardship of finances and the implementation of various initiatives freed us of debt from 1 April 2021. We maintain robust control of the forecasting and monitoring of our finances, all endorsed by an independent audit in December 2022.

We thank the school leadership team and cost centre managers for their support. We especially thank Didem Allen for her dedicated stewardship of our finances as our Head of Finance since May 2023.

The figures above exclude finances and student numbers for the Link.

Some of our students do not attend full time, particularly if they are not of statutory school age. 'Full Time Equivalent' student numbers is the number of students' attendance hours all added together and then divided by a standard full time school hour week.