

Spring Term 2021

Advisory Board Update

We would like to share with parents a flavour of our work through the school newsletter on a more regular basis. We hope this may inspire you to get involved in the work we do. If it does, please get in touch.

We were excited to welcome two new members to our board this term, Hannah Walley and Ayesha Kaji. Hannah and Ayesha are both experienced in education and are primary school teachers for schools outside of the Trust. Look out for a future newsletter to learn more about them.

At our meeting in February, we looked at the school's arrangements and support for special educational needs pupils, the effectiveness of remote learning and the wellbeing of pupils.

Mrs Male, the school Special Education Needs Co-ordinator, spoke to us in detail about how the school identified and supported pupils' needs and how this had been affected by the pandemic. It was encouraging to see so many SEN pupils attending school during lockdown, and to hear that smaller bubbles had been beneficial in allowing time for focussed support. Mrs Male shared the training that staff had received which would help children to manage and think about their feelings as they returned to school.

Mr T gave a presentation on how the school had responded to the latest lockdown and the remote learning that was provided to pupils. Despite the school being closed, on average there were 130 children in school each day. The school has strong systems in place to ensure that there was regular contact with all pupils and that they were supported to take part in remote learning. We would like to acknowledge the remarkable work the school achieved in remote learning and praise the contribution of all staff in supporting pupils in and outside of school.

At the meeting, we also looked at the pupil wellbeing survey and talked about how the school could further develop pupil voice so that more pupils felt they were being listened to. Mr T shared some work that the school council had been involved in and the other opportunities pupils had to take a role in the school. We agreed to look at pupil voice when we visited the school in the summer term.

I hope you found this update interesting. We are still looking for parents to join us. Your views, as parents, are so important in helping the school improve even further. You don't need to have a background in education, just an interest in the school and time to attend meetings. If you would like to have a chat about the role or find out more, please contact me (charlton@dsatbraunstone.org).

Finally, I would just like to say a thank you to all our parents for your continued support. We understand the enormous responsibility and challenges that remote learning has placed on you. We realise that all of our families are experiencing a difficult time and that there are many other needs, in addition to home learning, that are critical as we work through this crisis together.

With sincere thanks,

Lauren - Chair of the Advisory Board