

Chatsworth Governing Body Away Day

Friday 9th February 2018.

Chatsworth Governing Body recently held a very successful 'Governor Away Day' at the Novotel Hotel, Worsley. The day was attended by seven Governors. Martin Hanbury, (Executive Headteacher for Chatsworth Multi-Academy Trust) was invited to lead the morning session, whilst Louise Hutchinson (Governor) chaired the discussions in the afternoon.

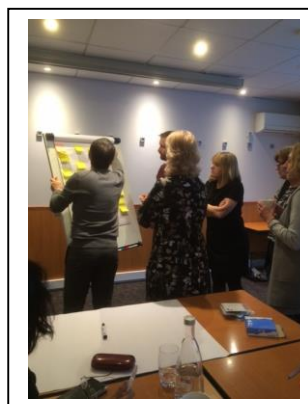
Martin began the morning session by presenting 'The Golden Circle' which is a strategic management and leadership tool developed by Simon Sinek. This model presents a rationale for why some organisations are more successful than others, and suggests that great organisations create a solid foundation by first addressing;

- 1) Why they exist
- 2) How they go about their mission, and then finally,
- 3) What they do.

Therefore, Governors were initially invited to share within the group their personal motivations for being a school Governor. Following a brief coffee break, we then explored how we would like the Chatsworth Governing Body to be characterised by other people (parents, students, school staff etc). We highlighted seven key features that we feel summarise an effective Governing Body. These characteristics will assist us in writing a Mission Statement for the Chatsworth Governing Body.

Seven Key Characteristics.

- 1) Committed.
- 2) Approachable.
- 3) Inclusive.
- 4) Trustworthy.
- 5) Supportive.
- 6) Challenging.
- 7) Engaging.



Following a lively discussion, Governors then moved on to review the 'Competency Framework for Governance' which was produced by the Department for Education in January 2017. Before lunch we began an exercise to map the seven key characteristics that we had identified with the DfE Competency Framework. We also referred to the School Inspection Handbook (Jan 2018) to check Ofsted's criteria for effective governance.

The afternoon session was an open discussion during which Governors identified two key areas that we would particularly like to focus on this term; staff well-being in school, and communication with parents and staff.

Governors found this day very useful, and we plan to meet again after half-term to continue this work.

Louise Hutchinson. 12th February 2018.