



The Vineyard School
Friars Stile Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6NE

Dear families,

As a governing body we witness the progress our school is making on a regular basis both through our visits into school and when we have governing body meetings to look at school data and other documents. We are then able to relate those figures to the observations we have made during our visits.

I was delighted therefore that what the inspectors read, saw for themselves, and heard from staff, governors and the community was completely consistent with our own development plans and the actions they contained. Their verbal feedback to us was extremely positive. All this should give us the confidence in these plans to continue the excellent outcomes and continuous improvement every school should strive for. The governors will continue to work with school leadership to implement and review these plans and our self-assessed development areas.

Personally, I have been involved as a parent at the school for almost 9 years, a governor for 8 years, and Chair of Governors for 3 years. During my time at the school, I have seen three different Headteachers, each of whom has contributed to The Vineyard to make it into the school it is today.

We are extremely fortunate to have been able to recruit the calibre of staff we have, particularly Frances, who joined us two years ago. Our staff are extremely dedicated, and are aligned with the ethos and values of the school through their efforts day to day.

In this short period of time, Frances, her leadership team and all the staff have worked tirelessly to update our school curriculum whilst ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to develop the skills they need for life, by having a stimulating and enriching school experience. The importance of this latter point has been reflected in Ofsted's decision that The Vineyard was 'Outstanding' in supporting the Personal Development of pupils.

In collective agreement between leadership and governors, The Vineyard has taken the time to build a quality, bespoke curriculum rather than buy a curriculum plan in. We believe this approach allows the school to provide the quality and richness of teaching and learning to deliver the high aspirations we as parents, carers, governors and staff have. The inspectors commented that the team needed more time but were absolutely on the right path.

I am so grateful to all staff and my fellow governors for their hard work and enthusiasm. In my experience of the school, the qualities we see and discuss now across curriculum, safeguarding, personal development, pupil progress and attainment make the school the best I have seen in my years of association with The Vineyard.

Finally, I would like to thank the families and our community for your support and engagement. The lead inspector noted he had never seen so many responses to the Ofsted parent survey!

Best wishes and have a great winter break with your family and friends,

Antony Cook
Chair of Governors