

Governors' NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2018



The Governors' newsletter is published for parents and staff each school term and includes information on strategic school developments and any changes in the school's governing body and governance structures.

We hope you find it informative and interesting!

Governor/Director's Visit to Routes4Life

Back in November, which already feels like a very long time ago, I had the opportunity to visit Routes4Life with Emma Allen. This was the first visit I've had to the R4L site since it was formally opened in September, having previously had a tour of the vacant facility with my fellow Governors earlier last year.

R4L is a very different type of facility, aimed at supporting young adults to develop greater independence and, where possible,

supporting their transition in to the workplace – so the young people at



R4L are not there to extend their formal education. Despite this difference in focus from Corbets Tey and CorbetsTey@TheAvelon, my first impression of R4L is that it is an unmistakable part of the Corbets Tey family – a place where you can see right away, that young people are engaged with supportive staff in meaningful activities and most importantly, it felt really welcoming and friendly!

During my visit, I had the chance to speak to several young people about their time at R4L. I was really impressed to hear about the progress they've made in such a short space of time, particularly with regards to getting into the workplace. One young man spoke enthusiastically about his time at work one day a week – and clearly his enthusiasm and ability was being noticed by his employer, who had already asked if they could increase his hours!

Another story that stuck with me was of a young man who has been working at a library. He told me that he has been putting together a visual display with recommendations of his current 'Top Picks', driven by his own passion for reading. The reason this resonated with me is that it is, in my opinion, often all too easy to get caught up in talk of 'reasonable adjustments' in the workplace when thinking about how to accommodate and support people with disabilities of various kinds. While this is important, it encourages a deficit mindset – thinking about people in terms of the things they might not be able to do so well. So it was really nice to hear this simple example of what it looks like when you focus on the abilities, skills, and interests that a person has, and then let them do something different which improves the place they are working.

Like the rest of Corbets Tey, R4L has a firm focus on supporting individuals in a way that meets their own specific needs, so it was also really interesting to hear about the techniques and strategies that staff are using to help their young people to develop a range of useful life skills. And I don't mind admitting that I felt a bit jealous that several of the young people I spoke to can now navigate Lakeside without a map – I've been trying, unsuccessfully, for years to learn my way around!

I'd like to thank Emma, Nick and their team at R4L for letting me visit and speak with them, but most of all I'm very grateful to the young people at R4L for letting me poke my nose in and hear from them about their experiences so far. I look forward to dropping by again some time soon to hear more!

Tony Moss. Co-Opted Governor. Committee Membership: *Leadership and Management*

Who We Are...

- **Julie Lamb** (Foundation/Partnership) Chair of Governing Body
- **Emma Allen** (Headteacher)
- **Jeff Stafford** (Foundation/Partnership)
- **David Jones** (Parent)
- **Nicky Sargent** (Parent)
- **Karen Hoffman** (Staff)
- **Tony Moss** (Co-opted)
- **Phil Brimson** (Co-opted)
- **Ross Cowling** (Co-opted)
- **Kim Huggins** (Co-opted)
- **Vacancy** (Local Authority)



For more information about all of us, please visit the **Governors' Page** on the school website at www.corbetsteyschool.org.uk

Expansion of Corbets Tey School

We are delighted to see the continued development in the provision offered by the school. We now have 120 pupils aged 4-16 on the main school site and our new soft play room and classes have enriched the daily opportunities on offer.



At CorbetsTey@TheAvelon we are continually developing our offer for our 35 students aged 16-19. We have a strong focus on functional skills, including accreditation in Literacy, Maths and ICT where appropriate. A new development this academic year is a part time member of staff with a dedicated focus of developing work experience opportunities for those students appropriate.

Routes4Life one year pathways were launched in September and we have 10 students aged 19 and over who are studying through a year-long programme designed to develop skills for adulthood. This year our students are all on pathways to employability or positive community inclusion. We aim to build sustainable partnerships with the providers who will continue to work with our young adults as they leave education.

The expansion to our student number and age range have been exciting despite the challenges associated with growth and increased staffing needs. Both Governors and school staff are committed to developing our offer to achieve the most successful outcomes for our young people.

Emma Allen Headteacher

Governors Pen Profile

Nicky Sargent

I am currently a parent at Corbets Tey School which my son, who is 12 has attended since he was 4 years old. I was aware of the school many years before my son needed the help of Corbets Tey.

I live locally in Hornchurch and am a full time mum and have another son in a mainstream school local to our school, I often help out in the school when parents are needed.

I'm very passionate about our school, parents and pupils. I have previously been a volunteer for a charity that supports special needs children and their families, in which I helped run a support group for parents. I also volunteer currently for The Multiple Sclerosis Society in which I help disabled adults with their fitness and wellbeing.



I have over 18 years of horse management and qualifications and have worked alongside Riding for the Disabled.

I bring to the board the view of a parent who has a child at the school.

Corbets Tey School INSET Dates

2018-19		
<i>Dates may be subject to change</i>	Main/Whole School	R4L
3 rd September 2018	Assessment, Evidence, Marking, Moderation, Updates to KCSIE 2018, Online Safety, GDPR	Safeguarding & Related Initial TA Training (1 st Week Back)
4 th September 2018		
7 th January 2019	5P Behaviour Approach Rebound Training Safeguarding Child Protection	5P Behaviour Approach Safeguarding Child Protection
29 th April 2019	TBA	
24 th July 2019	TBA	