



Cherry Orchard Advocates 2022 – 2023

This has been the first year our School Advocate team has been in action, previously the school had a team of School Governors. The Advocate team is made up of three roles: **COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, PUPIL EXPERIENCE ADVOCATE** and **HEADTEACHER ADVOCATE**.

Our team of Cherry Orchard Advocates are:-

- **Headteacher – Martin Fessey (Martin was formally a school Governor and lives locally)**
- **Pupil Experience – Adrian Cox, Oliver Ward and Chris Holloway (all Parents at Cherry Orchard)**
- **Community – David Long (David was formally a school Governor and works in a secondary school)**

During the course of this first year, our Advocates have visited the school on a number of occasions, including individual visits to see the school in action and, most recently, a group visit. During the visits, the Advocates have carried out a range of activities including talking with parents, staff and pupils. They have also reviewed the responses from the various parent and pupil surveys.

The Advocate feedback on their visits to the leadership team at Cherry Orchard, and they also attend a termly meeting with the Trustees. This ensures Advocate feedback is purposeful and helps to make the school even better for everyone.

Autumn term focus areas:-

- The Y2, Y4 and Y6 curriculum
- Vulnerable pupils – Pupil Premium and pupils with Special Educational Needs
- Safeguarding
- Experience of YR parents/carers (*Induction, transition settling-in period*)
- Staff well-being
- Safeguarding

Spring term focus area:-

- What is working well regarding the curriculum?
- What impact is the curriculum having on your vulnerable pupils?
- **Y2 and Y4 PP and SEND pupils** (i.e. those pupils who are both Pupil Premium and SEND). Discuss their thoughts on the curriculum subject e.g. History - Show me a piece of work that you are proud of and tell me why you are proud of it.
- How are parents/carers kept informed about their child's learning? Parent/carer workshops. What additional help does the school give to support your child's learning?

Here is a summary of the summer term Advocate visit when the focus areas were the highlights/lowes of primary school, experiences and opportunities throughout primary school and transition to secondary school. The staff were asked to reflect on their training and development across the year.

Visit Feedback

- ✓ Pupils have a positive view of transition and pupils are really positive about their experiences through primary school, particularly the standout moments like recent Coronation events, Year 6 residential trip, DT projects, cookery and with some History lessons with practical/dramatic delivery also.
- ✓ Year 6 pupils all positive about their overall school experience, including the recent SATS which they felt breezed by, and were all confident talking about it.
- ✓ School has been supportive in providing communication between parents and secondary schools. Support is available to help parents with the process of applying.
- ✓ Staff were very content with the breadth and depth of the training and courses available.
- ✓ Leaders proactively support the CPD process for all staff across all levels.
- ✓ There are a wide variety of pastoral courses available.

Possible next steps

- Review and extend the range of equipment available for children to play with at break times.
- Continue to develop the delivery of the Sustainable goals to ensure pupils have practical ideas to help them to feel empowered to take small positive practical steps.
- To use surveys and pupil voice sessions to find out more about the pupils' views on Maths and English lessons.
- To continue to use training days to support the development of the school's development plan priorities.
- Consider ways that the school can support families with the cost of trips and visits.

The Advocates will have their final meeting of this year on Friday 14th July, when they will join other Advocates from all of the MAT schools along with the academy Trustees.

If you wish to feedback to one of the Advocates or meet them on their next visit in school, please email the office, marking the message for the attention of the named Advocate or directly to me via my email address kbanford@riverscofe.co.uk.

The Advocates would really love to talk to as many parents/carers as possible. Further information about the role of Advocates is available on the school website.

Many thanks to the Advocate Team.