

# AQUINAS ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

We hope you had a wonderful Easter and a chance to recharge your batteries after what has for many been a challenging term due to lockdown.

The Aquinas Advisory Council continued to meet virtually in the spring term, on 21 January and 25 March, with the next meeting planned for 7 July. Headteacher Ellen Peyton updated the AAC about key issues, ranging from lockdown learning and the recovery programme to the financial and staffing situation and more. AAC members asked questions and made suggestions, noting in particular the success of the online teaching during lockdown.

### Learning Walks

Several Learning Walks took place last term, helping to give the AAC insight into the various aspects of the school and inform their questions.

- AAC Chair Father Richard (Safeguarding lead) met with the school site manager to get an overview of the health and safety procedures that are in place;
- Ngozi Melton (Curriculum lead) attended the virtual parent forum to hear parent views;
- Mariam James (Enrichment lead) met with assistant headteacher Dawn Arden to discuss enrichment opportunities;
- Sandra Wolf (Inclusion lead) had a meeting with Inclusion manager Inka Davies (maternity cover for Michelle Fahey); and with PSHE lead Elizabeth Thorn, who gave insight into how the school delivers personal, social, health and emotional education.



### Training

The Trust provided induction training to AAC members and is currently preparing further training.

### Changes to the AAC

Sadly, we will be losing Fr Richard as Chair as he leaves for new adventures at the end of the month. He has been an invaluable guide and his good judgement, humour and intellect will be missed. Until his successor is appointed, we are fortunate to have Geraldine Shackleton, Aquinas Primary Educational Director, step in as Chair, who many of you will remember as the former Headteacher of St. George's.

We were also delighted to welcome Mariam James as a new Trust-appointed AAC member in January. Mariam is a children's book author and will bring her experience with children to the AAC.

The current members are: Fr Richard Norman, (Trust-appointed member - Chair), Geraldine Shackleton (interim Chair), Ellen Peyton (Headteacher), Mariam James (Trust-appointed member), Daniel Rose (Trust-appointed member), Cllr Colin Smith (Trust-appointed member), Louise Chambers (staff-elected member), Ngozi Melton (parent-elected member) and Sandra Wolf (parent-elected member). The AAC Clerk is Annie Browne.

### \*\*\*WANTED: AAC MEMBERS\*\*\*

Aquinas Trust is looking for AAC members for all schools across the Trust. Please contact Philippa Kings visit [aquinatrust.org/vacancies/aac-members](http://aquinatrust.org/vacancies/aac-members) if you are interested, or spread the news if you know anyone who might be.

Aquinas Advisory Council