

# AQUINAS ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Another term has already ended, and while Covid-19 is continuing to cause some absences, it has been wonderful that the school doors were open for another full term so the children could make the most of their learning and see their friends.

The Aquinas Advisory Council held a meeting on 16th March. Headteacher Ellen Peyton updated the AAC about the school objectives, as well as the recent Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools, which found the school to be true to its vision of being 'a flourishing fellowship, learning together with God by our side'. You can download the report from the school website.

Sadly, the term has also brought news of the invasion of Ukraine, and our hearts go out to the families affected by this devastating war. Aquinas Trust is ready to support the children that are now arriving at its schools from Ukraine, to help them settle and find their feet again. We know that our school community will do their best to make the new arrivals feel at home. If you would like to help, you can also donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Use of social media was another topic we debated at the last meeting, as it has become necessary for the school to create guidelines on the use of class WhatsApp groups. The school will update the community on this in the coming weeks, along with job descriptions for parent reps.

We then discussed how effective the Aquinas Advisory Council is, and how it links up with parents. AAC members are connected with the parents and Friends of St. George's through the Aspire to Inspire working group, and support the amazing events organised by the Friends. Lately we have even found that our interim Chair, Geraldine Shackleton from the Aquinas Trust, has secret talents as a video presenter – check out the brand new vlog by Mrs Shackleton, Mrs Peyton and Ms Browne for a peek behind the scenes!



With a new parish priest, Father Henry, due to join us soon, he will take on the role of Chair later this year. The current AAC members are: Geraldine Shackleton (Interim Chair); Ellen Peyton – Headteacher; Daniel Rose – trust-appointed member (finance, sponsorships & grants / website compliance); Cllr Colin Smith – trust-appointed member (Finance & Community); Fred Kenny – staff-elected member (safeguarding); Danielle Kirkwood – trust-appointed member (PSHE & mental health); Ngozi Melton – parent-elected member (curriculum / EDI); and Sandra Wolf – parent-elected member (inclusion / EDI). The AAC clerk is Anne Browne.

Last but not least, Dan Rose, as well as raising over £2,500 for school books, has persuaded designer Jeff Banks to share his passion for fashion at the St George's careers fair on Friday, 17th June. That's no reason to be shy though – we need mums and dads to showcase their amazing jobs for the children, so please bring your hard hat, calculator, uniform, court wig or camera – you don't need to give a presentation, just be there and answer a million questions!

Until then, we would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter, Ramadan mubarak, a sweet Passover and happy Vaisakhi.

**Sandra Wolf** for and behalf of the St George's Aquinas Advisory Council

