

Mount Hawke Academy

Termly report to Parents

Summer Term 2015

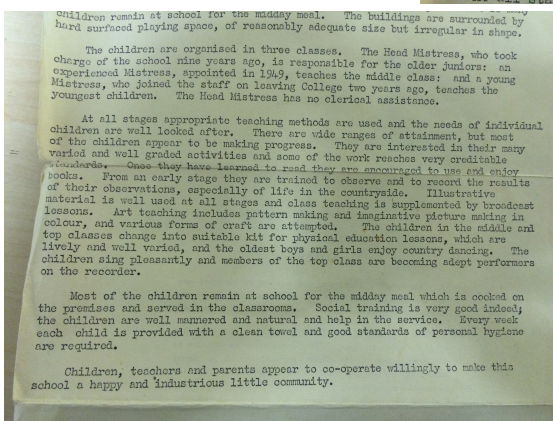
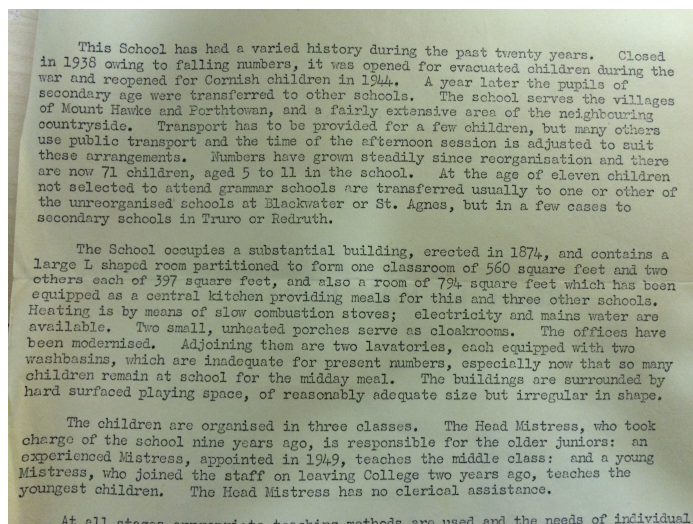
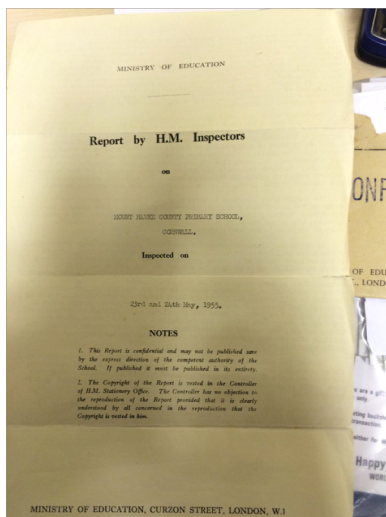


Introduction

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the MHA termly report. This has been a great year at MHA and there is much to celebrate. I want to concentrate in this report on letting you know about the progress your children have made, our plans for next year and to celebrate some of our achievements.

Andrew Earnshaw
Executive Principal



Some historical documents
recently uncovered!

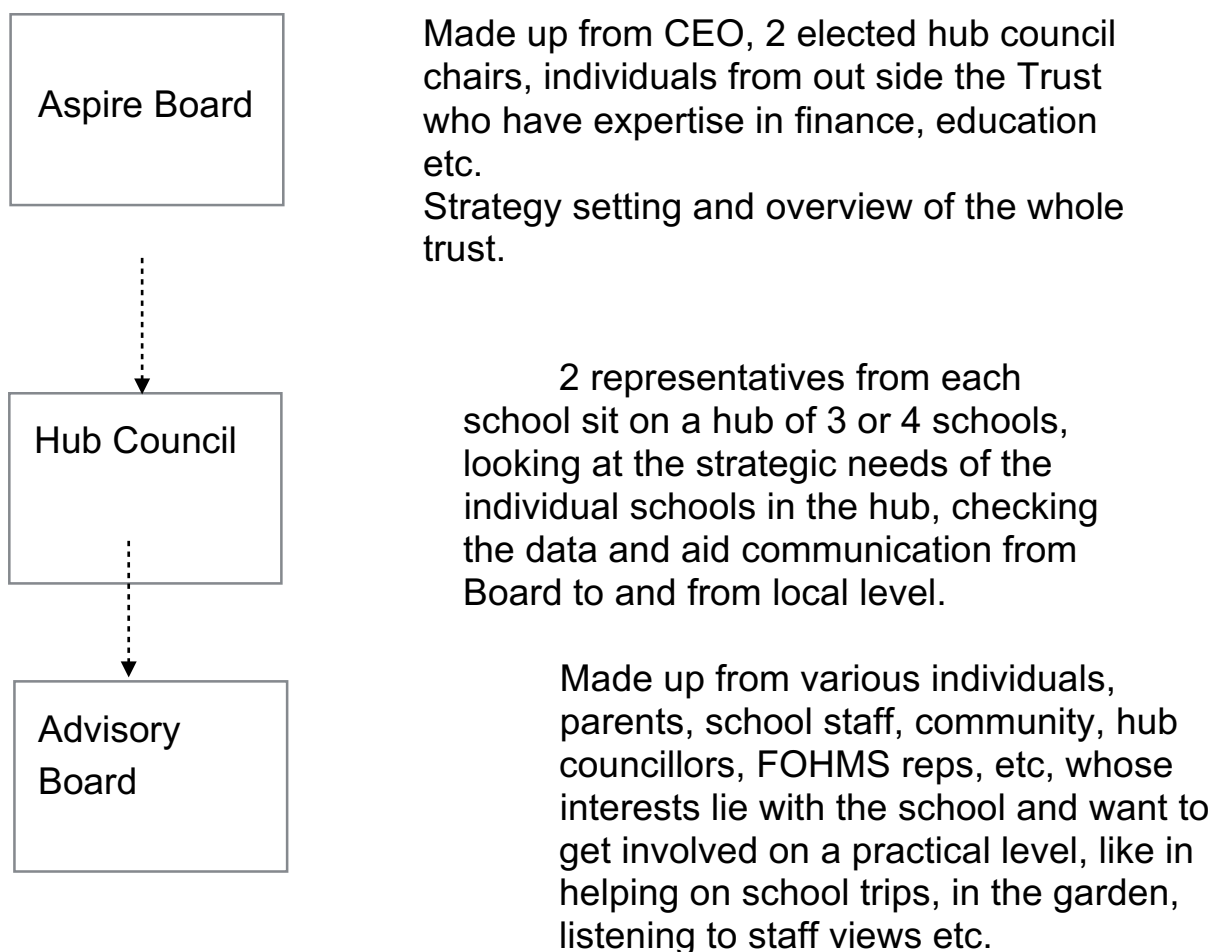
The Governing Body - Last Chair's report

A meeting was called recently between parents and Governors to explain some of the changes in the school, especially in the Governance and to answer many other questions. The following is a summary of the discussions:

Governance Change

With the many Governmental changes over the years and the resulting changing landscape of maintained schools becoming academies and then part of a Multi Academy Trust, the world of Governance has also changed to reflect this new picture. The Government quite rightly is wanting School Governance to reflect the strict management of the public purse

From September 2015, there will no longer be School Governors at Mount Hawke. Instead, there will be:



Mount Hawke Hub Council representatives are:

Nicola Pearce nicola.pearce@aspireacademytrust.org

Clare Elliott clare.elliott@aspireacademytrust.org

This structure reflects the level of responsibility and accountability within a multi academy trust and formalises where decision-making occurs, giving greater clarity to those roles.

There was a general consensus that many in the room would have liked to know more about the process and be able to take part in supporting the school.

This was very much the wish of the Governors, who had only recently been made aware of the changes to the structure, and in their desire to set up the Mount Hawke Advisory Board (MHAB) in the new academic year with more new faces.

Budgets

Questions had been asked by the parents, why some staff hours were being reduced.

Next year's budget is less than this year for the following reasons:

- The value of the budget from Government has not changed.
- Budgets are based on pupil number in Oct14, and the school will have an extra 15 pupils in September, requiring more teachers.
- An increase in pay for all staff, in line with the national rates.
- An increase in cost for pension contribution costs.
- The school pays the first £6,000 costs of a child with special needs (statemented), before gaining any funding support.

Therefore with less money in the pot, the hours of some staff were affected. All those concerned express their appreciation of these valued affected staff and the contribution they make to the school.

Communication

Many parents felt communication lines could be improved, which the Governors agreed with and looked forward to exploring some of ideas given on the day on how this could be improved:

These were:

- Regularly updated web site
- Aspire newsletter- should be launched in the autumn term
- PR coordinator
- New people on the MHAB
- Termly meetings, though the time of these was raised as a concern as some would be happy with 3pm, others 6pm.

New Teachers

Some parents raised concerns about the method new teachers start at the school. As the following link below shows that there are 3 common routes into teaching. We are using School Direct, a common method used to gain new teachers who stay with the school once qualified and learn by a mixture of real time teaching with support from a school mentor and all the other outstanding teachers as well as college days out on the theory.

http://teachersupport.info/get-support/practical-guides/new-teachers/routes-into-teaching?gclid=CITa3_3f3MYCFcPKtAodnXQARw

With all methods, there is a tough selection process and the panel choose only the very best to enter the programme. Mount Hawke took the very best candidate to join our school. It is to our benefit that this candidate was also familiar with the school and regularly involved in supporting and taking classes as part of her career progression. I wish Mrs Brandreth all the best for the future.

Reflection

Having been involved in the school for the last 7 years as a parent and a School Governor, I am pleased to see the best bits have stayed the same or got better, such as the consistent outstanding teaching and learning. Having become involved in other schools, it is always with pleasure I return to Mount Hawke and the general passion for learning, the politeness and general excellent behaviours all the children exhibit.

It is even nicer to see where the school has got better; in being involved in sports and the variety of them. Every week, some child seems to have represented the school and done well and in more trips out.

I also know the school and its leadership are always looking to improve, so feel confident that the school will continue to be outstanding. So my thanks to all those involved from the school staff, to Governors and to all the parents and members of the community who support either in their time or financially, however big or small.

Nicky Pearce – Chair of MHA Governing Body

Progress

Our latest group of children ready to move on to Secondary School have really made us proud. They also made huge progress in their learning this year and maintained our proud record of high achievement. In fact they made well above the national average in Reading, Writing and Maths. This took a huge amount of effort and hard work and we are very proud of all of them. I know that next year they will be a real asset to their new schools. We will miss them!

All classes in the school made good progress last year and we intend to carry on providing this level of excellent education for all your children. Behaviour around the school continues to be excellent and visitors all say they can sense a real pride amongst the children for their school. In fact a number of schools have adopted our approach to behaviour around Cornwall and beyond.

Our school is a National Support School and much of the work done here and in the Aspire Trust has an influence across the country.

Celebrations

There have been many things to celebrate this year but here are a few of the highlights. Our sporting teams attended more events this year than ever before and more children than ever took part in sport with and at other schools. 158 different children entered competitions and every child in year 4,5 and 6 at MHA represented the school in sport this academic year. Our children were again part of the elite Cornwall School Games. This is an event where only the very best make it to compete against each other at Poltair School. Our children made us proud, showing great skill and teamwork. The children took part in 16 different sports including Lawn Bowling, indoor athletics, quad kid Athletics, handball, gymnastics, dance, swimming, duAthlon, tri-Athlon, football, netball, Table Tennis, hockey, badminton, cycling and cross country. MHA qualified for Cornwall peninsular football and netball finals for the first time coming 2nd overall in football and 6th in netball.

Our minibus was in action taking children on trips all over Cornwall, including to St. Ives to find out about old industries, to Waterstones with each month's Superstars and on tour with the School Band.

Our children went to Truro High School for Girls to take part in high level maths challenges and some of our lucky children had a day out at the Minack Theatre with other Aspire Schools.

Our Year 6 had another great residential at the PGL adventure centre in Devon. They made the school proud with their attitude and behaviour as ever.

Next Year

We will continue to work closely with Truro Learning Academy next year and also welcome to our group Penryn Primary Academy and Connor Downs Primary Academy. We will work together to share expertise, resources and support. Each school will help to challenge each other to improve and ensure that you get the best education possible for your child.

There will be some new faces next year in our staff and you have heard all about them in a recent newsletter. I welcome everyone and also remind you that Mrs. Piper is always available as our Parent Support Advisor if you need her.

There is a new national curriculum with no more levels to report to you, as the letter with your child's report explained. We will be focused on delivering this new curriculum to your children next year and meeting the raised expectations that it provides. We have some plans to keep you better informed about your child's progress next year - so watch this space.

There are lots of things you can do next year to help your child. Regular reading and help with homework are always important and even more so with the new curriculum. Please ensure your child is at school promptly and regularly. Aim for 8.30am and you should always be on time. We have a reasonably priced Breakfast Club and Playzone operating after school to make child care even easier. Holidays will not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.

Our new buildings will be complete and will see the culmination of years of work to provide a top class school that can accommodate all our local pupils. There is no more room for growth on this site, so in years to come if Mount Hawke continues to grow, maybe we will need to find a new site?