

## **RE Governor Virtual Monitoring Visit**

### **Online meeting with Rebecca – 2.12.20**

It was good to spend some time with Rebecca and to hear some of what was going on in the school, particularly in the area of RE.

Clearly this has been a time of great stress and challenge for Rebecca and her staff and, as governors, we can only be grateful to have such a dedicated and talented team. Rebecca told me of the multiple challenges presented by covid: the amount of work involved in maintaining covid restrictions and keeping the site sanitised, and the challenge of coping with the effects of lockdowns and restrictions on the mental health and educational attainments of the students.

Notwithstanding, the educational programme of the school has carried on apace. We discussed the work done on RE over the last months and it was good to hear that the world faiths part of the curriculum has now been covered, with attention being given to Islam. Rebecca commented that the pandemic has made it impossible to invite people into the school to personalise Islam, but this has been partly mitigated by the use of video clips. After Christmas, there will be focus on the study of the Gospels. In the spring, it is hoped to pursue a study of 'pilgrimage' and this will be a useful way of bringing together and cementing the study made of the various world faiths, since pilgrimage is common to most, if not all world faiths.

We also discussed the Commando Joe and Thrive programmes and it was good to hear that these are really helping in overcoming some of the issues thrown up by covid and the first lockdown. Both programmes are practical and allow staff to help students build character traits such as resilience and sharing. Commando Joe, being an outdoors programme, fits in well with the attempt to use the school grounds as much as possible, since it is a relatively safe environment.

The school is now putting together a filmed outdoors nativity, which is taking up a lot of time, but will, no doubt, be thoroughly enjoyed by parents and others. The nativity is emblematic of the creative way staff are meeting the present challenges. But these challenges are taking a heavy toll on the staff team.

Adam Hood