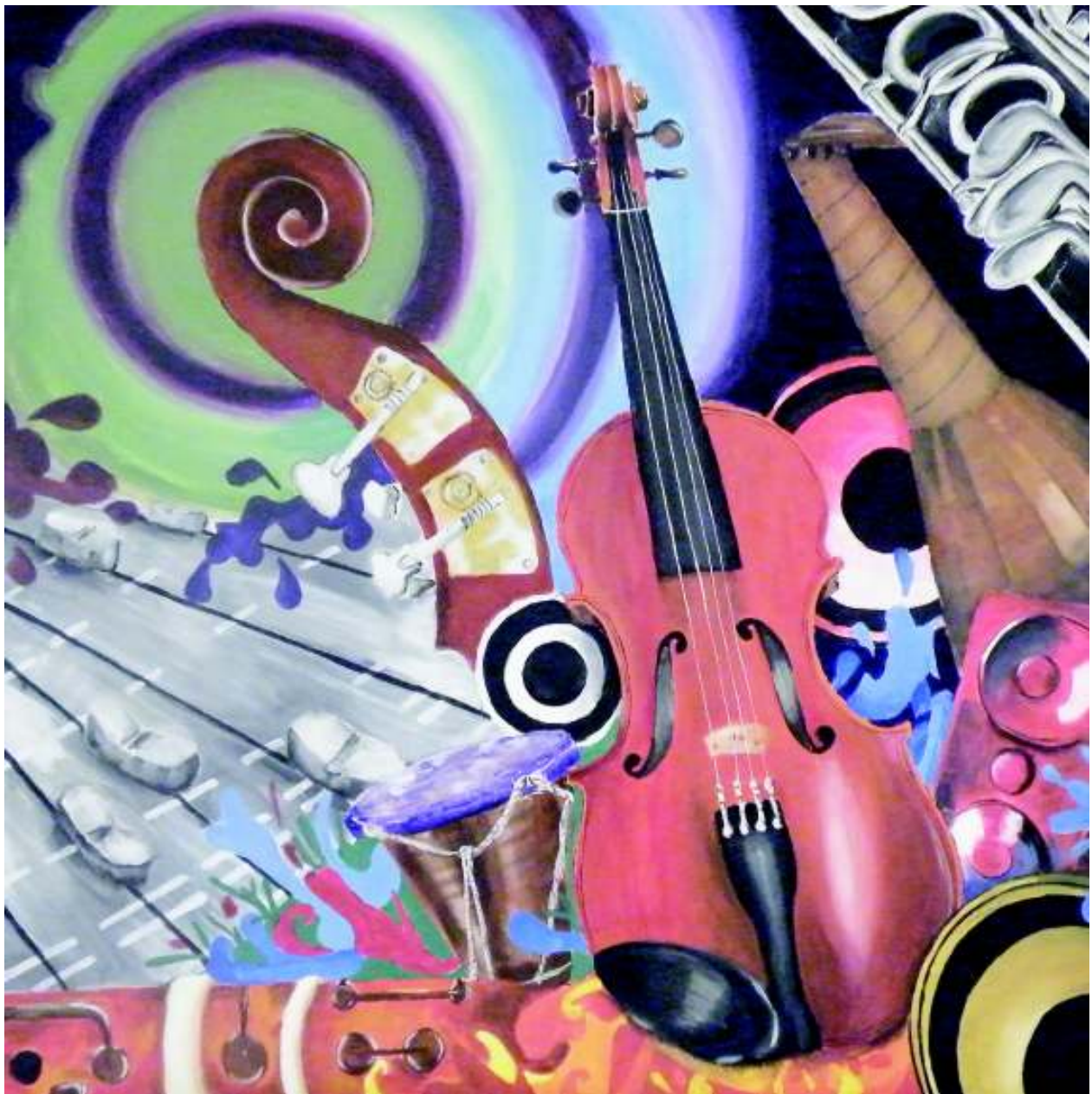


Parkside Federation



Report of the Governors to Parents and Carers 2009





Dear Parents and Carers

Any school must be centred on its students and aim to provide them with an education that opens as many opportunities as possible for their future. This report starts with the students with highlights from each of the Faculties from the past year and examples of students' artwork throughout.

This year there has been progress on the development of the Federation sixth form with plans for new buildings in place. The work at Coleridge will be part of the redevelopment of the whole campus that will include rebuilding of parts of Coleridge as part of the Governments 'Building Schools for the Future' scheme and an expansion of Ridgefield Primary School. The Parkside Federation was the successful bidder in the competition to run the new secondary school at Trumpington. The aim is to develop a school that has a similar size and ethos to Coleridge and Parkside. The second part of the report contains more information about progress on these developments.

The end of this school year marks a change for the Governing Body as the four-year term of many Governors comes to an end. The Governors who are leaving are Jeremy Caddick, Nichola Harrison, Amanda Morris-Drake, and Jo Wright, who were all Parent Governors; Sheila Pollock, a Foundation Governor; Hazel Mills and Karen Chapman, both Staff Governors; and Lewis Herbert, a Local Authority Governor. All have contributed to the improvements that continue at both schools and I'd like to thank all of them for their effort and support of the Federation

We hope you find the report interesting and informative but please do not hesitate to contact a Governor if you have any questions or comments. The Governors' Annual Report to Parents used to contain detailed information on student performance and other aspects of the school. This has been replaced by school profiles that anyone can access at <http://schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk> by entering either Coleridge or Parkside.

Yours sincerely

Mark Carrington
Chair of the Federation Governing Body
11th July 2009

Progress in the past year

The examination results from summer 2008 were exceptional at Parkside. The contextual value added (CVA) score measures the progress of students with similar students in similar schools elsewhere in the country placed Parkside in the top 7 % for progress from years 7 to 11. The results at Coleridge were not so good with CVA at the very foot of the table. There are several reasons for this poor result including the registration system and the small size of the year group and the Governing Body and Federation staff are determined that the results will improve. It is perhaps worth noting that the performance of students who had spent years 7 to 11 at Coleridge performed better than expected. More details of the performance of both schools in the key stage 4 exams can be found in the relevant school profile (<http://schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk>) or by requesting a copy of the profile from the school office.

One aim of Federation was to make both schools 'outstanding' under the Ofsted criteria; Parkside has achieved this and the Governing Body is determined that Coleridge will also reach this level within the next three years.

Highlights from Faculties

English & Media

GCSE English
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Media Studies

Former Parkside student and now published author, 19-year-old Catherine Banner returned in October to read to Year 7 from *The Eyes of a King* her latest novel. Afterward, she answered questions and signed books for copies of the novel for students.

The Menagerie Theatre Company's writer, Patrick Morris, gave some Year 10 students a master-class in writing one-minute plays. At the end of the two day ICU, staff performed some of the work to much amusement.

As part of the University's 800th anniversary, twenty students from the Federation wrote a letter about their everyday experiences, hopes and fears for the future that will be sealed in the University archive for the next 100 years. Great figures, such as the physicist Professor Stephen Hawking, have also contributed to the 800 letters, so the students' correspondence will be in fine company.

Year 6 pupils at both Ridgefield and Newnham Croft Primary schools have had the opportunity to extend their Literacy skills this year by experiencing KS3 English Literature every week taught by Ria Ferguson through the play script *Frankenstein*.



Mathematics and Computing

GCSE Mathematics
FSMQ Additional Mathematics

A number of students from years 8 and 9 took part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust team challenge regional heat this year. Each campus entered a team and the students had a fantastic time competing with other schools. Although our teams didn't make it through to the National Final they had a really enjoyable experience that helped develop their interest in mathematical problems and enquiry.

We have had continued success in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenges at both Junior and Intermediate level. Students achieved a total of 17 Gold, 23 Silver and 53 Bronze certificates across the Federation. Of particular note from year 7 were Alessio Verrecchia, Tim Wright, Alvin Gardener and Tom Kim who all achieved outstanding results in their first UKMT Challenge. Tae Hyun Yoo and Hannah Tse Debenham also did exceptionally well, going through to the next round. Success at this level promotes the students onto a national level and may give them the opportunity to compete at an International Level.

This year we introduced a new Integrated Curriculum Unit for year 10, which was very successful. We designed to activities to focus on students' Functional Skills and help them to develop their confidence in solving complex problems. Whilst this was primarily introduced to support the assessment of Functional Skills necessary for students taking a diploma course, all the students found it useful and felt that it raised their confidence in dealing with more challenging mathematical tasks.

This year, the Maths Faculty have been involved in an innovative project exploring how students work in groups using a technique called 'Complex Instruction'. Introduced to us by Professor Jo Boaler (Sussex University), this has allowed teachers to plan lesson together and change pupils' perceptions about what it

means to be good at Maths. Professor Boaler has taken a particular interest in how we are implementing this technique, as the Parkside Federation is one of the only places where this is being developed in mixed-ability groups. We have found it particularly useful as, in this lesson model, asking questions and supporting others is highly valued and thus it has allowed those students who normally find Maths challenging to be successful and feel a sense of achievement.

Our liaison with Feeder Primary schools has increased this year with the introduction of a Parkside Federation Year 6 Maths Challenge, which will be taking place on June 25th. We hope that each school will enter a team to take place in the Challenge by running a heat, provided by the Maths Faculty. Mr Pfeiffer is supporting our Primary Schools in running this heat and will run the 'final' at Parkside. We hope that this will encourage problem solving and engage students' in solving puzzles and using mathematics for their own enjoyment.



Science & Environmental Education

GCSE Science Double Award
GCSE Applied Science
iGCSE Biology
iGCSE Chemistry
iGCSE Biology

The Science and Environmental Education faculty has had a great year. Our SPARKS club has sent teddies into space, an event that had national and international TV and press coverage. We also hooked up with Charles Simonyi on the International Space Station for a question and answer session on life in space. The new laptops have been welcomed by all, and are being put to very good use. Our gifted and talented students have had many opportunities to go on educational visits and enter competitions. Primary liaison at Coleridge has gone well with lessons delivered to students from Abbey Meadows and Morley (St. Phillips to follow). Ridgefield students have had regular lessons with Hazel Mills. Look out for the giant DNA structure - coming soon!



Humanities

GCSE Classics
GCSE Geography
GCSE History
GCSE Religious Studies

As part of the Year 11 Core Humanities lessons on Sustainable development, Erin from Camfed, a local Charity supporting girls education in Africa, has delivered lessons on poverty in the Developing World. Camfed also screened the film 'Where the water meets the sky' during Humanities assemblies this term with Years 10 & 11. On the 26th January, some of the Year 10 Core Humanities classes had a talk about the Holocaust by Dr Edward Kessler, director of the Centre for Abrahamic Faiths at Cambridge University

In the Spring term we introduced a new ICU for Year 7. On one day they were looking at diversity in our community which involved looking at census data for Coleridge & Market Wards, information about some of the people who own businesses on Mill Road and carrying out fieldwork along Mill Road. This was followed by group display work on what they had learned. On the second day a group from Cambridge University ran workshops on Enterprise. Students were working in groups to design, budget for and market a new product. This included a session on buying & selling shares.

Key Stage 3 pupils entered the Historical Associations 'Historical Fiction' competition where pupils had to write a story set in any place or time period in the past.

Active Citizenship– one of the Yr.11 Core Humanities groups doing the Challenge project this term have raised £150 for Oxfam and Unicef by having pancake, cake & jumble sales. Each group has raised some money this year for charity

International Education and Communication

GCSE French
GCSE Italian
GCSE Latin
CBLC Spanish

Over 100 Year 8 students took part in a very enjoyable day trip to Boulogne in April

The French Exchange with Nimes goes from strength to strength, with 34 students from Parkside and Coleridge visiting their exchange partners in June

Our Connecting Classrooms Project with schools in Mauritius is moving forward, with teachers from Parkside Federation and Park Street visiting Mauritian schools in May.

Our Italianists have been engaging with La Dante cultural institute in cookery and singing, while clubs in Mandarin Chinese, German and Spanish have proved popular.



Creative and Expressive Arts

GCSE Art
GCSE Music
GCSE Photography
GCSE Applied Art (Double Award)
GCSE Dance
GCSE Drama
AS Dance

A hugely successful talent show was held at the Cambridge Corn Exchange and, for the first time, many acts contained students from both schools performing together. In addition, GCSE Drama and Creative and Media performances were showcased at The Junction.

A range of extra-curricular opportunities have continued to thrive including the PFO, The Federation Boys Dance Company, VOX, Parkside/Coleridge Dance Groups, Samba Band, Rhythm Junkies and many more.

Year 9 students have participated in exciting Arts projects: the oil painting Art experience, the African Drumming workshop, Bedfordshire University's Dance Showcase.. A new year 9 curriculum has been devised for next year with increased personalisation.

The year 7 Gifted and Talented Dance project has now been running successfully for a year.

Technologies

GCSE Graphic Products
GCSE Hospitality and Catering
GCSE Resistant Materials
Information and Computer Technology (ICT)
BTEC Construction

Use of ICU days to introduce KS4 courses in Hospitality and Catering and BTEC Art and Design. Students from both sites came together in mixed groups to work on acrylic jewelry, as well as Fashion and Catering modules as 'tasters' for the real thing.

Year 11 GCSE Hospitality and Catering students who prepared a buffet for the winter concert which served in the interval and had a selection of finger food prepared by the students including mince pies, mini cranberry scones and mini quiches.

Students set up a restaurant in the Coleridge drama studio for an Italian evening, that was a great success,. The room was decorated with conical shrubs on loan from Oakington Garden Centre and with the red and white chequered tablecloths the room took on quite a Mediterranean atmosphere. The students prepared and served an Italian three course meal to staff and visitors who had booked a table. Feedback from guests was very positive and the evening was a great success.

Sport, Health and Fitness

GCSE PE
BTEC Sport

The organisation of the sport BTEC was given excellent feedback from the external verification process in December 2008. For the second year running the sport BTEC has passed the National standards sampling process with all decisions and assessment standards agreed.

A new KS3 assessment designed by faculty in line with the new curriculum and there was successful completion of the Healthy School award for the Federation In October 2008

The Federation sports teams have competed in more events and fixtures this year, including Rugby, Netball, Football, Basketball, Rounders, Athletics, Rowing, Badminton and Tennis.

The year 8 tennis team won the Cambridgeshire county cup, and played the winning school from Norfolk. The federation team are in the final again in July.

The year 10 football gained a place in the semi-final of the county cup, playing Hinchingsbrooke, after beating Comberton 5-0 in the quarter finals.

The Federation sports day was successful, leading to a stronger athletics squad for competitions.

A programme has been developed for non traditional sport next year, including ultimate Frisbee, girls rugby, table tennis, orienteering, indoor rowing, trampolining, golf, and biathlon.

The federation ski trip was a massive success, being one of the largest secondary school groups ever out of the UK. 154 students and 16 staff attended.

This year the faculty has held more primary link festivals, including large scale festivals with over 200 primary aged students, with all coaching, preparation and leadership roles performed by BTEC sports students. 68 sports leaders have taken part this year from year 9, 10 and 11.



Vocational and Applied Learning, to be known as Business and Enterprise from September

The Faculty is very much in its infancy but it essentially covers any work-related learning that takes place and will also include the new developments in the area of travel and tourism. This year, all Year 10 students were enrolled in the AQA Preparation for Working Life course which involved an exam on various aspects of life in the workplace and some coursework, namely the writing of a CV, covering letter and notes for interview preparation. From September 2009, all Year 11 students will be taking AQA's Enterprise and Employability course and will be planning, implementing and evaluating a project. These lessons, together with the Year 10 Work Experience in May, are an essential part of getting our Key Stage 4 students to think, perhaps for the first time, about the requirements of the workplace and what they have to offer potential employers.

Learning Centres

For the 'World Book Day' Celebrations in March, staff from both sites dressed up as characters from well known fiction and students participated in a quiz based on these characters. It was very well received and prompting students to research independently, in groups and also raising money for purchasing new books for the Learning Centre.

The Touch-Typing club pilot has exceeded expectations despite running on a Friday afternoon has a regular core group of 10 students attending. This pilot was aimed at Year 7 students but has been in demand by other year groups too. The pilot will end this term but with such success will now feature amongst the regular club offers from next September and will be rolled out to Coleridge too.



What changes will be happening to the Federation and what are the plans for the future?

14 to 19 Education - Diplomas

Diplomas allow students to combine courses studied between years 10 and 13 towards a qualification in a speciality. The initial set of Diplomas concentrate on more 'applied' courses and it remains to be seen whether 'academic' Diplomas will be introduced. The diploma system will both overlap and run in parallel with the current GCSE, AS and A2 qualifications.

This year was the first year of the Creative and Media Diploma at the Parkside Federation and the course was fully subscribed with 50 students. The Diploma is still evolving and next year two new routes have been devised through: Performing Arts and Visual Arts.

Next year marks the start of a Diploma in Society Health and Development

14 to 19 Education – Sixth Form

Planning for the introduction of a sixth form is progressing well. The aim is to offer 120 places in Year 12 and the same number in Year 13. The courses on offer will be the International Baccalaureate (IB) and various Diplomas as they are developed. Currently, the plans for buildings and renovations have been submitted for approval and the Federation is progressing through accreditation as an IB school. The sixth form will admit the first students in September 2011.

A third Federation secondary school at Trumpington

Over the next 10 to 15 years, several new secondary schools will be needed in Cambridge. One of the first of these new secondary schools will be in the Trumpington area, adjoining the Coleridge and Parkside catchment areas. Earlier this year the Parkside Federation was successful in the competition to run the new school. The aim of the expansion has been to offer a secondary education in schools small enough to maintain a 'human-scale' atmosphere where most students and staff know each other. The Governors believe that education on this scale has many benefits beyond simply classroom performance.

There have been two main drivers behind this expansion. First places at both Federation schools are already oversubscribed, representing a demand for the type of education we aim to provide. Second, there are large financial benefits in forming a Federation and this is reflected in many ways, for example in the greater choice of GCSE subjects available to year 10 students next year. The Governors believe that a Federation of three secondary schools each with 600 students between years 7 and 11 is the optimum size in maintaining a balance of the benefits of 'human scale' education, coherent management and financial benefit and there are no plans to expand the Federation beyond three secondary schools. Under current plans it is anticipated that the new school at Trumpington will open in September 2013 but this date remains to be finalised.

About the Parkside Federation

The Parkside Federation currently contains two schools, Coleridge and Parkside Community Colleges. Parkside Federation schools are Trust schools; this means that overall responsibility for the schools is split between the Parkside Federation Governing Body and the City of Cambridge Education Foundation. The

Governing Body employs the staff of the two schools and is responsible for the delivery of education and for admissions. The Trust owns the fabric of the schools and is responsible for ensuring that good facilities are available at both schools. Approval of both the Governors and Trustees is necessary for any substantial change in the schools.

The Governing Body is made up of representatives of parents and carers, the local authority and community, the Trust, and the staff. There are 20 Governors:

Coleridge Parent Governors	3
Parkside Parent Governors	4
Staff Governors	5
Local Authority Governors	2
Community Governors	2
Trust Governors	4

A full list of governors can be found at www.parksidefederation.org.uk and further information about the Trust can be found at www.ccef.org.uk.

What are the aims of the Governing Body?

The best way to express what the Governing Body is trying to achieve is to view the outcome from the point of view of the student who has been to Coleridge or Parkside. The first aim of the Governing Body is that when a pupil leaves a Parkside Federation school he or she should have received an education that has maximised, and not limited, future lifetime opportunities. Each student should have achieved their full potential in intellectual and social development and emerge as a confident and articulate individual. The most effective way for the Governing Body to achieve this aim is to first ensure that both schools in the Federation are 'outstanding' schools. Parkside was judged to be an outstanding school following the Ofsted inspection in 2008 and the aim is that Coleridge should be judged an 'outstanding' school within the next three years.

The second aim is that schools in the Parkside Federation should be rooted at the heart of their communities and the most effective way of meeting this aim is for the Governing Body to ensure that the schools welcome all students through their admissions policies.

Getting involved with your schools

Our schools are successful because of support from both families and the wider community. In the summer term 2009, there will be elections for four Parkside Parent Governors and details will be circulated nearer the time. The PTA welcomes your support, and they can be contacted via our website. If you don't want to make a regular commitment, but work in a business or have skills which you think could help the Federation, please get in touch with Andrew Hutchinson via either school office.
(parksideoffice@parksidefederation.org.uk or coleridgeoffice@parksidefederation.org.uk)

Any user, such as a parent of a student, of either Coleridge and Parkside is entitled to become a member of the Trust. More details can be found at www.ccef.org.uk. The current trustees include former and current governors of Parkside and Parkside Federation, representatives from local government and expert advisors.

How to contact a governor

The best way to contact a Governor is through the Clerk by email or by telephoning the school office and asking for the Clerk to the Governors or by writing to the Clerk at either of the schools.