



We are Dragons

Reaching for the Sun




Our Aim

To inspire, encourage
and develop free-
thinking, confident
young people who
reach for the sun.





Head's Introduction



As Head of Dragon School, I stand on the shoulders of giants but none more so than the Dragon's founder Skipper Lynam; his words ring in my ears, 'we have failed unless we have helped the boys to develop their mind and their capacities in their own way, unless we have given each boy scope for all of the imagination and originality that is in him.' Clearly the Dragon was a boys' school at this time!

The purpose of this publication is to inform you of how we intend to stay true to Skipper Lynam's founding ethos whilst taking Dragon School forward and developing global citizens of the 21st century. Our aim is to inspire, encourage and develop free-thinking, confident young people who reach for the sun. We will achieve this aim within an inclusive community where we celebrate diversity and strive for equality. The positive outcomes for each individual Dragon are central to every decision we take.

Since being appointed last year, I have sought feedback from parents, staff and our young Dragons to ensure our vision matches the needs and expectations of our community. This is a phenomenal School and my aspiration is that the Dragon should be regarded as a leader in every aspect of Prep education.

Please take the time to read the following introductions by our Chair of Governors Andrew Webb and Chief Operating Officer Martin Johnson. I think it is important to feel confident and reassured by transparent governance and financial and estate management.

We are embarking on an exciting phase of the Dragon's evolution, what follows in this publication is our stated aims in individual areas and our targets for the academic year 2022/3.

With best wishes,

Emma



Chair's Introduction



Last year, I wrote to our community and stated that I believed we would emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever. I am therefore extremely pleased that we are able to use this publication as a means of launching a fresh vision for the Dragon under Emma's leadership. Our goals have very much been shaped by the feedback of our community. As Chair, it is my role to ensure that we have a strong governance model, create an environment for innovation and inclusivity, and ensure we have the appropriate resources to enable delivery of the vision.

To that end, the Board embarked on a governance review in the Autumn Term of 2021 and, as a result, we have re-structured some of our committees and identified a number of new trustee roles on the Board. The new Social Impact Committee provides the strategic framework for the School to drive forward our ambitions in social responsibility. We have appointed four new Governors this year with expertise in: risk management; energy, sustainability

and natural resource considerations for property management; mental health; and business development. Ensuring we continue to promote diversity of thinking is an important consideration for all Boards and we will be seeking additional trustees in the Autumn Term to add to the diverse backgrounds and experiences inherent within the Dragon community.

Finally, this year we seized the opportunity to restructure our finances, securing a private placement for the School. This, together with the generous support of our community, means we are able to embark with confidence on delivering our strategic ambitions.

The Governing Body is excited about the plans for Dragon School and the impact they will have on our pupils, colleagues and the wider Dragon community.

Best wishes,

Andrew



COO's Introduction

The next twelve months will see some significant developments to the School estate. Firstly, our young Dragons will return in September to a refurbished dining hall and we are also delighted to have extended our contract with our caterers Holroyd Howe for another five years.

At the Prep School, our efforts in refurbishing the Boarding Houses will continue this Summer and over the course of the year we will be able to refresh and upgrade many of our classrooms. We will also respond to feedback regarding facilities at the Pre-Prep by upgrading the rear playground. I am delighted to confirm that construction for the [new Music and Performing Arts Centre](#) will commence over the Summer holidays. This is a

16-month project and the School is making all necessary preparations to integrate this activity into our normal school routine.

Finally, and in order to support the Dragon's goal of reaching Net Zero by 2030, we are currently undertaking a baseline study of our carbon usage. This will be the foundation for our strategy that will see the School make a number of investments to infrastructure and processes in order to meet our sustainability goals. Many of these initiatives will be incorporated into the new Music and Performing Arts project and the wider School estate.

All best,

Martin



Academic

To raise a generation of Dragons who are academically rigorous, creative, independent and ambitious free thinkers. To be a market leader in prep school education through curriculum design, professional development of teaching staff and partnerships.

- Expand provision for Drama throughout the School
- Develop and implement a new strategy on feedback to parents on children's progress
- Refine evidence-based Teaching & Learning priorities, focused on pupil outcomes
- Launch and embed a new phonics teaching scheme — Essential Letters & Sounds
- Review the current Maths provision at the Pre-Prep



Pastoral care and safeguarding

To put pastoral care at the heart of all we do, by advocating every Dragon pupil to 'Reach for the Sun' and approach everyday life with Kindness, Courage and Respect. To equip all pupils with the necessary skills to tackle life with confidence, empathy and determination. To respond progressively to the modern world and ensure we lead with a proactive and restorative approach.

- To review the pastoral and safeguarding structure; define delivery of the following: emotional health, mental health and wellbeing within the structure of our pastoral and safeguarding provision
- To develop clear communication systems across all stakeholders
- To upskill staff, parents and pupils regularly to respond progressively to the modern world



Co-curricular

To provide an outstanding co-curricular and enrichment curriculum to develop and create confident, free thinking young people. To ensure participation and inclusivity are at the heart of our provision.

- To enhance the co-curricular provision at the Pre-Prep
- To develop the provision of clubs and activities in conjunction with Dragon QUEST to offer a balanced programme
- To consider the measurement of impact of the co-curricular programme on each child



Boarding

To provide an outstanding boarding provision, in a home from home environment, led by exceptional boarding practitioners. To be at the forefront of the national strategy for boarding education which is child-centred, safeguards children's well-being and is ambitious for the progress of every child.

- To launch a new boarding strategy which embraces full boarding and flexibility across our boarding provision
- To provide an enhanced and balanced programme for boarders developing the personal, social and cultural development of each boarder
- To further promote inclusivity, embracing every individual across the boarding community



Communication and parental engagement

To provide timely, accurate and relevant information to the Dragon community. To embrace Dragon families in creating a positive and supportive community through workshops and social initiatives.

- To launch a more streamlined communication strategy
- To have a calendar of parents' workshops and information evenings
- To develop the DPP (Dragon Parent Partnership)
- To seek to identify a physical Parent Hub



Preparation for future schools

To provide Dragon families with personalised advice and support in choosing their child's future school.
To provide appropriate support and preparation for admission assessments.

- To launch a new framework support for parents
- To host a Senior School Fair at the Dragon in January 2023
- To provide a programme of events and workshops led by senior school colleagues and educational leaders to help parents with decision making
- To review our curricular provision in line with admissions procedures



Social Impact

To be pioneers in the area of Social Impact, as a School that develops pupils who understand the local and global challenges facing society today. As a whole organisation, undertake positive action to address and alleviate these challenges.

- Ensure each year group within the School has the opportunity to engage with a social impact initiative of their choosing, alongside our chosen wider School areas
- Create strong, long-term collaborative links with selected local schools
- Confirm short- and long-term partnerships with third party organisations
- To grow and secure our Transformational Bursary Programme through partnerships with senior schools and Royal Springboard



Equality, diversity, inclusion

To be a community where every Dragon and their family feels included, diversity in every respect is celebrated and equality is championed.

- To launch an EDI committee made up of representatives from every part of the Dragon Community
- To develop an EDI strategy underpinned by data from an audit of EDI related views and experiences
- To appoint a governor with responsibility for EDI



The Estate

To ensure that the School estate enables Dragons to achieve the best possible outcomes academically, personally and physically.

- To undertake a full condition survey as a platform for all maintenance work in years 1-5
- To accelerate the refurbishment of the remaining boarding houses
- To develop the Pre-Prep co-curricular facilities
- To commence construction of [the Music School and Performing Arts building project](#)



Net Zero

To have achieved Net Zero by 2030.

- To complete the baseline carbon audit
- To agree a Net Zero strategy for implementation
- To ensure Net Zero is embedded in all routine estate considerations

Governance

To ensure the governing body is configured appropriately and is fully engaged in the School to enable the Dragon to achieve its strategic aims.

- To ensure that the governing body composition is diverse in every sense
- To implement a critical performance review process for the governing body
- To implement a new structure of sub-committees





We will achieve our aim within an inclusive community where we celebrate diversity and strive for equality. The positive outcomes for each individual Dragon are central to every decision we take.



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