

# Reach Academy Feltham

## Annual Review 2012-13



Reach Academy Feltham opened in September 2012 in a temporary home in Bridge House. The school will ultimately serve pupils aged 4-18, and began with a Reception and a Year 7 cohort. The vision of the school is to transform the lives of our pupils by giving them the skills, character traits and academic qualifications to flourish in any career and lead happy and fulfilled lives.



This letter reviews our first year and sets out our priorities for the year ahead.

### Headline Achievements

- Pupils in Year 7 have made rapid progress in English and Maths. Pupils are on track to make more than double expected progress in English and almost double in Maths over the course of Key Stage 3.
- Pupils in Reception have made rapid progress in their first year of schooling. Pupils read fluently and are on track to comfortably exceed national expectations in Year 2.
- 100% of our parents would recommend the school to a friend.
- 100% of our staff would recommend the school to a friend and all teachers are staying at Reach next year.
- Work will start shortly on a brand new, purpose built permanent home for the school on Feltham High Street and the school will move in 2014.
- We will be welcoming a full complement of pupils in September 2013, with 60 Year 7 pupils and 60 Reception pupils.
- We have had an increasing national profile over our first year, with our Principal meeting the Prime Minister at Downing Street, visits by Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Lord Andrew Adonis, a double page spread in a National broadsheet and a mention on Radio 5 Live.

### Our pupils

We have a mixed community at Reach. We started the year with 86 pupils and have increased our roll to 94 by the end of the year. The following table gives more information about our pupil population:

	Eligible for pupil premium	With additional needs	Speak English as a Second Language
Primary	12%	38%	71%
Secondary	44%	52%	32%
Overall	23%	44%	57%

### Pupil Attainment and Progress

We aim for every pupil in the school to have the opportunity to go to a top university if they so choose, and as a result have set ambitious targets for pupils' progress and attainment. Our priority this year

has been to raise pupils' attainment in English and Maths, so that they have the strong foundations to enable them to access a broad curriculum as they progress through the school. In our first year, pupils have made dramatic progress towards



these targets:

**In Reception**, pupils joined with a variety of starting points and have made rapid progress. In all, 86% of pupils met the Early Learning Goals with pupils making accelerated progress through Reception. 46% of pupils achieved a 'good level of development' compared to a national average of 41%. Our outcomes were

moderated by London Borough of Hounslow, who praised the quality of our assessment and how well teachers know their pupils.

Our biggest priority in Reception has been literacy, and pupils have made dramatic progress in reading and writing this year. 75% of pupils are reading at a Level 1b at the end of Reception, and a further 22% at a 1c, meaning that 97% of pupils are on track to achieving a Level 3 at the end of Year 2, which would be ahead of national expectations. Many pupils are already reading fluently.

**In Year 7**, pupils have made rapid progress from a range of starting points. Our priority has been attainment in Maths and English, and on average in English, pupils have made **2.55** sub-levels of progress from their Key Stage 2 baselines. If this rate of progress continued, pupils would make more than double the national average over the course of Key Stage 3. 91% of pupils are working at a level 5c or above, and 32% have reached a level 5a. A number of pupils have made particularly dramatic progress, including one boy who has progressed five sub-levels from a Level 3c to a Level 4a.



In Maths, pupils have made an average of **2.79** levels of progress, which, if sustained through Key Stage 3, would lead to pupils making close to double the national average of progress throughout Key Stage 3. 82% of pupils are working at a Level 5c and a number of pupils have made more than four sub-levels of progress this year, including one pupil who has progressed 5 sub-levels, from a level 4a to a level 6b, meaning that they have made almost three years of expected progress in one year.

### Teaching and Curriculum

Given the dramatic progress outlined above, it is no surprise that teaching has been excellent this year. Teachers have planned rigorous, exciting lessons making use of assessment data to inform their planning. Lessons have been highly engaging and every pupil is supported to achieve their best. In Primary, the quality of phonics teaching has been particularly strong with targeted questioning supporting every pupil to make dramatic progress. In Secondary, assessment at the end of lessons has ensured that teachers are clear about the progress every child is making.

Reach Academy Feltham is a small school, and our desire to be small was borne out of a belief that being small allows every pupil to be known as an individual and offers the flexibility to enable personalisation. Across the school, intensive intervention and 1:1 support has been offered to pupils who need it, whether to stretch them beyond the level of the rest of the class, or to catch up with peers. In Primary this has included a 1:1 reading programme that provides several opportunities each

week for pupils to read with a trained adult, and in Secondary this has included master classes in a range of subjects.



Our focus has been on English and Maths, but pupils have had access to a broad and balanced curriculum this year. The quality of PE teaching has been praised by visitors from the Hounslow Sport Impact partnership, and pupils have had opportunities to develop their fitness, play rugby, netball and football and learn street dance with a teacher from Pineapple studios. In addition, pupils in Secondary have followed an exciting Creative Arts curriculum, including a highly successful photography unit, plus Philosophy and Logic lessons, daily French lessons and Science and Humanities. In Primary, pupils have had access to an integrated curriculum including diverse topics such as Festivals, The Sea and Journeys, with outside learning, creative arts and reading and writing to the fore.



We strongly believe that our pupils will benefit from a range of trips and visits. Year 7 pupils celebrated the end of the first year with a residential visit to Jamie's Farm in Wiltshire, where they reflected on their personal and academic growth and enjoyed team-building and outdoor activities. Year 7 has also been to major sporting events and to visit prospective employers and places of work such as HSBC in Canary Wharf. In Reception, pupils have been to the theatre, to a farm and on a journey by train in their first year.

### **Pupil Behaviour and Safety**

We know that our pupils will be successful when they are behaving well and teachers are able to concentrate on their teaching, and so pupil behaviour has been a high priority this year. Visitors to the school have commented on our pupils' politeness, good manners and excellent behaviour across the school. Our behaviour system in Secondary shows how behaviour has improved through the year: in the first half term, pupils received an average of 75 merits and 15 demerits, while in the second half of the summer term it was 93 merits and four demerits. A visiting governor commented on how interactions between students at lunch have improved significantly since the start of the year.



### **Leadership and Management**

Reach is a vision and values-driven organisation and the school's leadership team have driven this in the school's first year. The strength of that culture and the degree to which everyone in the building is aligned to it has been noted by visitors, while parents, pupils and staff have praised the school's leadership team. The school's governing body has also developed, adding two parent governors following an election in February and two further governors with extensive educational experience.

**Parent Survey – 98% of parents agree that “This school is well led and well managed”**

## Our Stake-holders

We know that to achieve the vision we have set for our pupils, teachers and parents will need to work closely together, and we have fostered that collaboration in our first year. Our stake-holders are delighted with the school's first year. We survey **pupils** regularly and they are happy at school, with one commenting to a visitor recently that "the hours are long but the days are short". We work closely with **parents**, and 100% of them would recommend the school to a friend. Over 95% report that their child is happy, safe, well taught and make good progress and that staff respond well to concerns. We would like to thank parents for all of their support this year and look forward to working closely with them to support their children's development in the years to come. Our **teachers** have worked tirelessly in the school's first year and we are delighted that every single one of them would recommend the school to a friend, would send their child to the school and, most importantly, are remaining at Reach Academy to help build on our successes in the coming year.



Figure 1: parents, staff, pupils and friends at our community action day.

## Unique features

Even in its first year, Reach Academy Feltham has attracted a range of visitors wanting to learn more about the environment and culture that is being built. In addition to seeing the progress of pupils, the quality of teaching, and the excellent behaviour, visitors have commented on the level of pupils' ownership and pride in their school and have been particularly impressed with the following features:

- Our food: our collaboration with JPL catering, our family service model and the fact that every child eats a school lunch is an important part of life at Reach. Our lunches were described by Boris Johnson as 'better than Eton's!' In May, we welcomed School Food Plan author Henry Dimbleby to Reach Academy for lunch. We featured as a case study in the School Food Plan and were on page 8 of the Guardian on the day of the School Food Plan launch; featured as a school taking an innovative approach to feeding its pupils.



- Our payslip: in Secondary pupils and parents receive a weekly breakdown of the week with a score reflecting their attendance, homework completion and behaviour. Pupils earn a weekly enrichment experience, can spend their 'Reach points' in a termly auction and, with a certain average score, qualify for privileges, access to trips and other opportunities. Pupils and parents love our payslip system as it provides regular, transparent feedback between home and school.
- Our collaborations: we have been delighted to work with Place2Be, City Year and Parent Gym in our first year. Place2Be has set up an already thriving counselling service in school and is having an important impact on our pupils' well-being. Our team of City Year volunteers have made a positive contribution this year, working closely with pupils in and out of lessons, supporting parents through coffee afternoons and several Community Action Days, and volunteering in other parts of our community. Parent Gym has run two highly successful parenting groups which have been well-attended, and which will continue next year.

### National Recognition

- I. Last autumn, the Principal and Chair of Governors were invited to Downing Street to celebrate the opening of the first Free Schools, with Reach Academy mentioned by Secretary of State Michael Gove in his speech.
- II. At Christmas, Lord Andrew Adonis helped us to celebrate our opening, telling pupils and parents that 'This is a great day for Feltham'.
- III. In the spring mayor Boris Johnson spent the morning at Reach, visiting lessons and meeting pupils, teachers and senior leaders and expressing delight at the progress pupils are making.



### The Year Ahead

We are looking forward to moving into our second year and are confident that our school will continue to develop and thrive. We look forward to welcoming a **full cohort** of 60 pupils into Reception and Year 7, and to additional pupils joining us in Year 8. We are thrilled with the plan for our **new building** and look forward to seeing the building come to fruition in the next 12 months. Once on the new site, we will also open a **nursery**, catering for the local community. We have recruited a group of excellent **new teachers** who share our vision and have a track record of success and who will help us to continue to drive rapid progress and high levels of attainment.



**A huge thank you to everyone who has helped to make this year so successful, particularly our pupils, parents and staff. We look forward to welcoming you back in September and to meeting new prospective families at our Open Days in the Autumn Term.**

**Jon McIntosh**

**Chair of Governors**

**Ed Vainker**

**Principal**

**Rebecca Cramer**

**Secondary Headteacher**