



## **Development of Gresham's Prep School 2008-2013**

### **Introduction**

There are a number of ideas plans and advances that are relevant to all three Gresham's Schools; this plan does not aim to address these broader issues, although what happens at the Prep School is integrally linked with the development of the Pre-Prep and Senior Schools.

We are determined to maintain the many strengths of our school in the academic sphere, the arts, sport and pastoral care.

Respect for one another, a strong sense of community and duty and an understanding that fun, laughter and play are vital for the development of well balanced and happy children, lie at the core of all we do. Good relationships are the key to a successful school; as the school moves forward it is vital that this truth lies at the centre of all our plans.

### **1. The development of the quality of the education offered at Gresham's Prep**

#### *Monitoring, tracking and promotion of pupils' progress*

Education is becoming increasingly individualised. We already recognise this in many ways:

- all children who receive Learning Support have individual education plans.
- we identify children who are gifted in particular areas and do all we can to extend their potential.
- we look after the individual pastoral, educational and developmental needs of children as a matter of course on a day by day basis.

All our pupils now take national tests in Mathematics, English and Science annually; they also take a variety of other tests and assessments and they are all screened for dyslexia. We would like to make the best use of the information generated to ensure that we are doing all we can to maximise each pupil's learning. We would like to develop a more consistent and thorough way of monitoring academic progress and ensure that all teachers are fully informed of how they are likely to promote effective learning in their pupils.

In order to do this two new posts have been created; Years 7 and 8 Academic Co-ordinator and Year 5 and 6 Academic Co-ordinator. A Year 4 co-ordinator already exists. Changes have also been made that allow for more consistent and regular meetings between staff for the purpose of monitoring pupil's progress. We believe that these changes will increase the quality of education still further over the coming years.

#### *Continuity in the curriculum throughout the Gresham's Schools*

We have made progress in the transfer from Pre-Prep to Prep and Prep to Senior School recently. It is important that this progress continues. It is particularly important that we develop a cohesive curriculum that spans Years 7 and 8 in the Prep School and Year 9 at the Senior School.

The development of continuity between the schools will have no adverse effect on children who are aiming to move on to schools other than Gresham's Senior School. It will remain a top priority to prepare children very well for the next stage of their education wherever that might be.

## **2. Rhythm of the school day and balance of the school curriculum**

We have analysed the shape of our school day and the balance of different subjects and activities in our curriculum. Some changes and improvements have been made recently and we will continue to make changes where we feel that they are appropriate.

## **3. Development of use of the school database and other ICT facilities**

It is important that we continue to upgrade our ICT facilities and improve the functioning of our ICT systems. We will continue to extend our use of our database, and other ICT tools, in order to improve our administration and tracking of pupil progress.

We will continue our programme of installing interactive whiteboards.

## **4. The development of the school site and facilities**

We are extremely lucky to have a beautiful and well maintained school site in which there was considerable investment in the 1980s and 1990s. We also share the use of a number of excellent facilities on the Senior School site.

We will continue to upgrade the site on a consistent basis as has happened in recent years. The Science Department, Crossways House and the car park are likely to be areas which will receive upgrading in the near future. In the longer term we are looking to completely redevelop the administration building, hall and surrounding area to provide the following:

- an improved reception area
- a replacement roof for the Hall
- improved Year 4 classrooms
- a central location for the Learning Support Department.

In the shorter term we would like to:

- create a space for entertaining and group functions, possibly by extending the Dining Room.
- extend the library; the Parents' Association are keen to fund this project and have already begun to raise funds for it
- consider extending Crossways House so that we can accommodate more boarders.

While it is recognised that we may not be able to achieve all our goals in the near future, we feel that it is very important to set out and plan our strategy.

James Quick June 2008