

Introduction

This has been a year of two halves with Coronavirus providing the half time oranges! Schools and governing boards have adapted to the rapidly changing environment, responding to the plethora of guidance and advice from both the DfE and the Local Authority with skill and determination, leading to our schools fully re-opened this Autumn.

Key Activities from 2019-20

• CONDUIT TO LOCAL AUTHORITY

Collaboration and Representation. The RGA has built a solid professional relationship with Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC), providing a good forum for mutual feedback and message reinforcement. Alice Boon has joined the RGA Executive committee, allowing more direct and immediate mutual understanding. BFfC and RGA training events are now coordinated and complement each other.

• COMMUNICATION

Website. We have continued to develop the content on our website (www.therga.org.uk). The site is a useful, 'go to' resource for governors providing, amongst other things:

- A summary of the latest news as it applies to Reading
- Notification of events
- The ability to book places on events in a simple and user friendly way
- Access to presentations from previous events
- Links to useful resources
- The ability to ask a question
- Access to advice or help

Newsletter. Our newsletter, 'The RAG', will continue to issue at three per year in the Autumn, Spring and summer.

• EXPERTISE

Over the past year RGA executive committee members have assisted school boards in a number of ways to improve governance. This activity has included reviewing existing roles and governor experience to identify skills gaps and providing assistance with recruiting new governors.

The RGA can put governing boards in touch with experienced governors if you need help, or if you can offer it. This is an area we would like to develop further so please do share your successes with us for the benefit of everyone.

- **TRAINING & EVENTS**

The bedrock of RGA activity has always been governor professional development and, in spite of the pandemic, our training programme continued with network events for Chairs and Vice Chairs, Disadvantaged Pupils and Safeguarding. In the new academic year, we have already held the first 'remote' Chairs Network event over Teams. This was very well attended and received great feedback from attendees. If you weren't able to attend you can find the very useful slides on our website, just click [here](#).

We will survey members during the coming year to see how well the online events are working and whether to continue working in this way after the COVID-19 precautions are lifted.

It is important for CPD and for Ofsted that governors have access to support, training and development and the RGA is a vital resource. We are now providing electronic attendance certificates to all attendees which can be easily forwarded to your clerks to assist the recording of your board's CPD.

For governing boards that don't subscribe to the BFfC SLA for Governor Services (which around 1/3 of Reading schools don't), the RGA is potentially your only source of local support.

- **ADMINISTRATION**

Membership Administration. The RGA executive committee took over the admin of membership and invoicing fees from RBC over a year ago. We sometimes encounter resistance from SBMs and Office Managers who query what our invoices are for and whether they should pay them. It is proposed in tonight's AGM to put the annual membership fee's up to £50 for schools and £30 for nurseries. This represent tremendous value, as the RGA's offer continues to improve with both online support and training initiatives. Please do let your school staff know if you are a member and to expect our invoice in the Autumn term.

Contact Management. Our contact database holds details of governors, clerks and SBMs. We only use this database for administration and to notify you of news and events. We do NOT share your data with any other parties. As we are in new academic year, we will be contacting your schools to check these details are up to date. If you are asked, please do give permission to let the school confirm your details with us. When your governors or clerks change please let us know as that saves time and ensures only those who wish to be kept informed will receive comms from the RGA.

Officers meetings. The RGA executive committee met face to face early in the year and online in the 'second half'. Our agenda has been to develop the proposition with



considerable improvements to the content and functionality of our website and, of course, in the planning of events.

We are always looking for new governors to help out, so please contact chair@therga.org.uk if you would like to join our team.

Key Priorities for 2020-21

Over the coming year our key priorities will be to:

- Improve the synergy between our services and those of BFfC, ensuring that events are of the highest quality and relevance to your needs
- Enhance and develop the RGA website such that it provides up to date and relevant information. Our aim is for the RGA website become the 'go to' place for governors in Reading.
- Facilitate and grow the size of our governor networks online such that we can support each other to improve the quality of education in Reading.
- With BFfC, build a cadre of local leaders of governance based on the national leaders of governance model.