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11th June 2015

Letter to parents

National Governors' Association Awards for Outstanding Governance

You'll recall I recently shared with you that governors at Upland had reached the final of the NGA's award for outstanding governance. We had a fantastic afternoon at the House of Commons and were joined by five other governing boards. Clearly the competition was very tough, but we did ourselves proud, receiving a special commendation for the way we have transformed over a short period of time.

The judges said of us:

"The history of the school was one of never having secured an inspection judgement better than grade 3. After a period without a substantive headteacher they appointed a new head in September 2012, were inspected by Ofsted in October 2012 and again judged to "require improvement".

A dynamic new chair and vice chair were appointed from within the governing board and they have shown substantial capability and passion to move the school forward with speed; Ofsted rated the governing board "outstanding" in leadership and management in September 2014. The governing board showed a togetherness in everything that they do, and their vision for the future. The governing board is working with other schools in Bexley to share good governance practice, which two years ago would have been impossible".

The awards were presented by Tristram Hunt, the shadow education secretary - do have a look at the photos on our website.

Governors are not paid for the work they do and the responsibilities that are on their shoulders and it was fantastic to be recognised for our achievements. But we know, when we do our job well, it has a positive impact on the children at Upland - which is the best reward we can receive.

Liz Dawes
Chair of Governors

