

Spring has definitely sprung – as I'm writing this, we've seen hail, a little light snow and some sunshine in just one day! And, with Easter fast approaching, it's time for me to update you on what's been going on within the Local Academy Committee this term.

At our last meeting, the Academy Committee delved into three areas of school life – Early Years provision, Oracy, and School Meals.

The Committee was pleased to hear of the work across the school from Early Years to Year 6 on developing children's speaking and listening skills, starting with structured, quality interactions between children and staff in Early Years to help children's language development. We heard how Voice21 is being implemented across the school to impact not just children's speaking and discussion but also their written work and their ability to build relationships and resolve conflict. Against a backdrop of national news stories about declining speaking and listening skills, it was wonderful to hear feedback from school staff about how successful these initiatives have been and that external monitoring of these has confirmed the academy is making great progress in this area.

The Committee has a delegated responsibility to oversee the academy's compliance with school food standards, and we spoke with the Trust Catering Manager to hear more about the work he's doing to ensure food across the school day is of the right nutritional standard, as well as catering for the varied dietary requirements of the children. He reported that uptake of school meals at TPA is increasing, reflecting the improvements his team have made over recent terms.

If what you've read here has interested you and you'd like to have these kinds of discussion about life at TPA – have you thought about becoming a member of the academy committee yourself? Please get in touch with Mrs Blacknell, me or Serena Baines ( [sbaines@diverse-ac.org.uk](mailto:sbaines@diverse-ac.org.uk) ) if you wish to know more.

Finally, on behalf of all the members of the Academy Committee I wish you all a joyous Easter break – whatever the weather!

**Sue Jackson**  
**Chair, Local Academy Committee**  
**Tuxford Primary Academy**