



23 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find below the key points of the latest HMI monitoring visit which took place on 6 and 7 June 2017. The letter has now been uploaded to the Academy's website for your information and will shortly be published on the Ofsted website.

Once again, we are pleased to report that the Academy continues to take effective action towards the removal of special measures and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Academy's staff for their hard work and dedication in driving up standards. It also goes without saying that the support of parents and carers plays a key role in improving standards, particularly in respect of attendance and uniform and we thank you for your help in these areas.

The effectiveness of leadership and management

- Senior leaders are analysing information and tracking pupils' performance more comprehensively and confidently.
- Leaders are beginning to make better use of this information to identify when pupils' progress stalls and are starting to take action where pupils underachieve.
- The headteacher and governors have made headway on longer term plans to fill staff vacancies and they are taking firmer action to reduce staff absence levels.
- Subject leaders now play a more important role in making improvements to teaching and pupils' progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is improving and some is very effective.
- Teachers use what they know about pupils' prior learning to make sure that tasks build on previous knowledge or tackle common misunderstandings so that pupils learn more rapidly. This has a good impact on pupils' engagement in their learning and they work productively and with obvious enjoyment. Teaching in languages typifies these qualities and there are examples of the same in a number of other subjects including computing, history, mathematics, science and music.
- Leaders have recognised and focused more firmly over the last two terms on developing pupils' skills in using language.
- Actions to tackle the low level of literacy skills and pupils' confidence in using language was evident in most of the lessons observed.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

- In almost all classes pupils line up quietly on entry to lessons and most arrive equipped to work.

- Better preparation by teachers is ensuring a smoother start to lessons and almost all pupils settle well to tasks.
- A greater focus on the importance of regular attendance and concerted work by leaders and pastoral staff since the last monitoring visit has helped to reduce high rates of persistent absence.
- Pupils are more confident and are aware of how to keep themselves safe.

Outcomes for pupils

- Academy data and information show improvements in progress since the last inspection.
- Most groups of pupils continue to make progress towards the targets leaders set earlier in the year in all curriculum subjects.
- Targets are set at levels which, if achieved, represent good progress and indicate leaders' ambitions for all pupils.
- Additional teaching and intensive revision sessions have continued to be well attended since the last monitoring visit.
- Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are making stronger progress in English, mathematics and science.
- Gaps between disadvantaged pupils' progress and that of other groups are starting to narrow.

The Academy will continue to work hard to build on the points raised and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Chris Weston
Headteacher



Mike Vickers
Chair of Governors