

Tuesday 26 May 2015

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

What a difference a year makes. It is now just over a year since the Academy was first inspected by Ofsted. I therefore wanted to take this opportunity to explain the considerable progress that has been made since that inspection.

As you know, following the Inspection we swiftly implemented a detailed action plan and staff and students alike have worked tirelessly to ensure that all targets were met. This has resulted in extensive progress throughout the Academy which has been verified by a number of key people and external bodies. Firstly, our progress and results have been verified by Debbie Clinton, HMI, who is monitoring our progress for Ofsted. The Governors have also employed 2 School Improvement Partners (SIPs) Sue Gregory and Marcia Headon, both recently retired HMI's and Ofsted Directors. Our SIPs visit the Academy monthly and report to Governors on the quality of teaching and standards. At our last Governing Body meeting, we presented a Self-Evaluation document which placed the Academy as 'Good' in all categories; this evaluation was fully endorsed by our SIPs. We have also recently undertaken a 3 day peer review process through Challenge Partners; a charity, owned and led by schools who work together to lead school improvement. Their review team consisted of 4 highly experienced educators: 1 Ofsted inspector; 1 head teacher; and 2 assistant principals, all from good and outstanding schools. In their verbal feedback to us following the review, they described the Academy as strongly good and on its way to outstanding. This is a delight for all of us to hear and a fabulous testament to the hard work that students and staff have undertaken in the last year. The report will be circulated to parents once published and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Many thanks to the parents of the Level 1+ students that got in touch regarding the proposed changes to the timings of the school day for Level 2. Very few concerns were raised; however, to ensure that no students or families are adversely affected, it has been decided that personal study will be available each morning from 0830 before classes formally start at 0930.

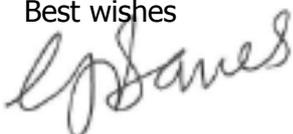
Our Level 3+ students are busy preparing for their final exams and we wish them every success for these assessments. I'm sure that they will be looking forward to celebrating their completion at their prom at the end of June.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to confirm the timings during assessment week which starts on Monday (1st June). On Monday, the school day will start at 0930 and finish at 1530. For the rest of the week, students will start at 0830 and finish at 1530.

After the hard work of assessment week, we have a number of events to look forward to. Festival week will be an exciting week of well-deserved fun including various trips and the annual summer barbecue which is being organised by our fabulous Parents Association. A letter regarding Festival Week is enclosed with this letter. Later in the term, we are excited to be holding our first Sports Presentation Evening which will be a night of celebration for all of our sporting stars, and our wonderful summer concert.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes



Geraldine Davies
Principal