



Our ref: 014/1718

20th October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: School Improvement Update

Given that we have now completed the first half term of the school year, I thought it an opportune moment to update you on our improvement journey. It also makes sense to update you now as we have had the GCSE results from the 2017 Year 11 cohort, and we have had a monitoring visit from Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), Lucy English.

Looking Back:

As you will know, either from our school improvement section on the website or from your child, we have rung many changes since January 2017 and I am delighted to report to you the visible impact of those changes.

Firstly, the GCSE results this year, despite being a new tougher national GCSE, rose considerably. The number of students achieving a grade 4+ in English and maths (equivalent to a C in non-reformed GCSEs) rose by nearly 10%. We are particularly pleased with this as many schools have reported a significant drop. There was also a huge improvement in the number of students achieving the highest possible grades (7 – 9), with nearly 6% achieving a grade 9 in either English or maths. The progress of our students over eight subjects has also increased significantly and our 2017 results show us to be the second most improved school in the city for student progress – something that our whole school community is justifiably proud of.

We are by no means complacent about this as we expect all students to achieve their full potential, and we expect all staff and parents to work together to help our young people achieve the very best. More details on the GCSE results can be found on the website.

As I have already mentioned, we have also had our first monitoring visit from Ofsted and we are pleased that, again, HMI agree with our evaluation of the improvements we are experiencing. The singularly key judgment in the inspection report is: 'Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures'. Importantly, she also recognised how 'pupils display a sense of pride in their school community' which is particularly pleasing as we have taken actions to bring about a friendly, compassionate community that expect more of themselves and of others, in line with our new school motto: **Expect More. Achieve More.** Again, we are not resting on our laurels and now every single member of staff is fully committed to providing the best education to our young people. The full report is now on the school website and can be found under the 'School Improvement Journey' tab.





Going Forward:

As part of our improvement strategy we have managed to recruit a number of new, excellent teachers who have settled into Chamberlayne superbly and who are all already raising standards in classrooms. We welcome, Ms Keyse (Associate Headteacher – English), Mr Toone (Assistant Headteacher – maths), Mr Robinson (Raising Standards Leader KS3 – Science/PE) and Mrs Moss (Teacher – English). We are also looking forward to welcoming Mr Kershaw as our second in science from January 2018.

In order to ensure that the rate of improvement accelerates further, all teaching staff have undergone two intensive days of Inset in order to refresh and develop a wide range of teaching strategies that we are all excited about factoring into our lessons.

We have also completely redeveloped our assessment policy in order to ensure that students' focus is squarely on understanding the next steps in their learning journey, and that the reporting to parents is clear and informative. You will, as parents, receive more Progress Reports in 2017/18 than you have done previously. A separate letter will be sent home explaining the new assessment and reporting procedures. In addition, Heads of Departments have rewritten or refreshed their curriculum in each subject to ensure maximum challenge to our young people. These can all be accessed on the school website under the curriculum tab.

Many of you have possibly heard me say or read my views on our accountability, but I would like to remind you of the main tenet. While we are subject to Ofsted and LA inspections and they keep us focused, it is the students, parents and community that we serve and that ultimately holds us to account. All of our work will always be in the best interests of the majority of students and as a result we encourage parents to become involved in school life. If you would like to join our regular parent forums, please contact Mrs Shacklock, Heads PA, on 023 8044 7820 for more information. Our ambition is that school and parents all work collaboratively in the best interests of students and their learning. An example of this is a simple but important act of ensuring that you get to see your child's work/book at every parents' evening which, alongside the progress report and the subject teachers' guidance, should allow you to understand fully how best to support your child.

Finally, thank you all for your wonderful support, particularly with regarding the improvements in uniform and students bringing equipment to school. Almost every student I speak with is delighted with the higher expectations, and as a result HMI reports that: 'All groups agree that the school is a different place in terms of culture and positivity' (Ofsted Sep 2017).' We must not and will not, however, be satisfied with where we are as there is still real capacity for much more improvement. In the words of our motto: **Expect More. Achieve More.**

Yours faithfully

Mr N S Giles
Headteacher