

25 May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing on behalf of the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) to keep you informed of developments at The South Leeds Academy in relation to the recent monitoring visit by Ofsted.

The Ofsted monitoring letter, resulting from the visit on the 4th May 2017, can be found on the school's website and will be published on the Ofsted website on Monday 29th May 2017.

The monitoring visit went well and we are pleased Nick Whittaker, Her Majesty's Inspector, recognised improvements since the Section 5 inspection in December 2016.

You will see from his report that he believes we are moving in the right direction and importantly the letter states that:

Following the monitoring inspection, the following judgements were made

- **Leaders and managers are taking effective actions towards the removal of the serious weaknesses designation.**
- **The school's action plan is fit for purpose.**
- **The academy trust's statement of action is fit for purpose.**

It is particularly pleasing that the Inspector commented on the significant improvements in the Academy's climate for learning and that behaviour continues to improve. The letter states that pupils spoke positively to the inspector about changes to the behaviour policy and consequences system and also about the impact that improvements in teaching, learning and assessment are having on pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare. He goes on to say, **'the Year 11 pupils I spoke to were unequivocally positive about the difference these changes have made since the last inspection.'**

However, the Inspector comments that while attendance is improving steadily on the whole, we need to do more to improve it in terms of our disadvantaged students and those that are persistently absent. This cannot be done by school leaders and our attendance team alone; it will require the combined and continued efforts of both staff and parents and carers working in partnership to ensure that we are meeting Academy attendance targets. That means students should attend school every day, without exception, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Whilst we are encouraged that Ofsted have recognised that we are taking the necessary steps to bring about improvements, we know there is a great deal more to do to make this Academy the great school we know it can be. I can assure you that the EAB is working closely with Delta Academies Trust and Cockburn Multi

Academy Trust, the proposed new sponsor, to provide significant school improvement for the future. More will follow on the proposed new academy sponsorship by Cockburn in another letter.

Finally, may I thank all parents and carers for continuing to stress to your sons and daughters the importance of them attending every day, on time, in the proper uniform, with the correct equipment and positive attitudes to learning in order to make the most of their time at the Academy.

Kind Regards



Graham Moffatt
Principal
The South Leeds Academy