

# Parents' Forum meeting

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 6-7pm



## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. General update following the Ofsted monitoring visit
3. Maths
4. English
5. Rewards and sanction
6. School comms app
7. Questions
8. Date of final meeting this year: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 6-7pm



## 2. General update

Mrs Hillier

Published:  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Cannock & Rugeley

# CHRONICLE

Thursday, June 29, 2017

Read by more than 71,000 people

Price v

Ofsted places school in special measures

## PUPILS BLASTED IN DAMNING REPORT

By Jack Averty

**A SCHOOL** where pupils throw objects during class time and use homophobic slurs has been placed into special measures.

Ofsted rated Staffordshire University Academy, on Marston Road, Hednesford, formerly known as Blake High School and then Blake Valley Technology College, as inadequate in all but one category.

Published:

15<sup>th</sup> July 2017



The headteacher of a failing school has vowed to bring it out of special measures 'as soon as possible'.

Staffordshire University Academy was rated inadequate by Ofsted after inspectors observed objects being thrown during lessons and a homophobic slur being used.

But fighting back, Rowena Hillier, the head at the 600-pupil school, has vowed her school will come out of special measures at the first

## Report by Jack Averty

possible opportunity. She said: "We were surprised by this judgement as it does not recognise the significant progress that has been made in the last two years. 2016 saw record levels of performance.

"We reacted rapidly to our inspection and have already made important changes to strengthen our current behaviour policy and

systems. We have made three additional appointments to the senior leadership team to initiate the further improvements needed."

She added: "We hope that parents, students and the local community will all give us the support we need to ensure we achieve a 'good' judgement during our next full inspection. We are determined to make rapid improvements and remain fully committed to help our students excel and be the best that they can be."

Published:  
9<sup>th</sup> August  
2017



# Pride and resolve at school of hard knocks

Academy given the lowest rating possible by inspector reveals its grit and determination for the future and a blueprint for recovery

**I**t does not feel like a school in special measures.

Walking into the modern reception of Staffordshire University Academy and being greeted by friendly smiles and warm 'hellos', it feels like a school at the higher end of the Ofsted ranking table, not the lower.

But regardless of how it feels, SUA, on Marston Road in Hednesford, is a school that has been rated 'inadequate' – the lowest rating

it does not give is context. Context to these incidents and context to the report itself.

As Mrs Hillier explains: "Two years ago we were inspected and that was when I was new to leadership as headteacher. I joined four years ago as deputy head but it was two and a half years ago I was made headteacher.

"Roughly five months into me being headteacher we were inspected, and on that occasion we got a 'requires improvement' judgement overall with a 'good' judgement for leadership.

is very honest about where we are, although we are making lots of progress there are some areas where we need to put more support in.

"We have two directors of learning who have responsibilities for continuing our drive forward for learning. We have already got our review of governance underway, which was one of the recommendations in the report, and we already have in motion the pupil premium review, which will happen early September. We are fully staffed for September and that is very important. The

Published:

26<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Head delighted after positive feedback

# Failing school determined to pull itself up

A FAILING school has been told it is taking 'effective action' to drag itself out of special measures.

Staffordshire University Academy

## Action

Simon Mosley, from Ofsted, wrote to Rowena Hillier, the headteacher at SUA, to tell her that leaders and managers at the school were 'taking effective action towards the removal of special measures'.

He added that school's improvement plan was 'fit for purpose' and ruled it could now start appointing newly qualified teachers in its strongest departments.

A delighted Mrs Hillier, who looks after around 600 pupils at the school, said: "We are pleased with many of the findings of our first monitoring visit.

"We have now officially had the confirmation, a year after being given our judgement, that we are, 'taking effective action towards the removal of special measures'. We are delighted

with the positive outcome of this first visit led by one of Ofsted's senior inspectors.

"We are still, however, acutely aware of the fact that there is still much to do to continue to improve our academy.

"I can assure you that all of our staff will be driving and embedding the changes needed to secure better outcomes for learners at our academy.

"This is an encouraging report and I hope it gives reassurance that we are absolutely on the right track and utterly determined to continue to drive forward on this important phase of our development. A big thank you too

goes to all of our students who did not let each other and 'Team SUA' down. They were able to show how typically respectful, polite and responsible they all are on these important two days.

"My final thanks go to the trust for all of their support and to our committed governors, several of whom were able to assist the process and meet with the inspectors to talk about our academy improvement work."

Mrs Hillier had previously told the Express & Star she had 'no sour grapes' over the inadequate rating, despite the surge in the success of results at the school that had been achieved under her leadership.



Staffordshire University  
Academy

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIES TRUST

# Highlights

- ‘Senior leadership has been strengthened...senior staff are working productively with the principal to create a more positive and ambitious culture within the school’
- ‘Leaders have a clear understanding of the school’s strengths and weaknesses’
- ‘The curriculum has improved’
- ‘the Chase View Support Centre - high-quality provision’
- ‘Communication with parents is improving...a very large majority of parents who responded to Parent View were very positive about the school and most would recommend it to another parent’
- ‘There is an embedded safeguarding culture in the school’
- ‘Governance is improving’
- ‘The trust provides effective support and challenge’
- ‘teaching is improving’
- ‘More teachers...do not settle for poorly presented, incomplete or superficial work in their books’
- ‘Many examples of high quality questioning to deepen pupils’ understanding were seen’
- ‘The launch of the RESPECT code...has led to a marked improvement in pupils’ behaviour’
- ‘Pupils are now showing greater respect for staff and each other and...they were polite and considerate’
- ‘Pupils told inspectors...bullying is rare and that staff would deal effectively with any incidents of unkindness’
- ‘Current pupils are making improved progress, particularly in English and humanities and strengths in creative and vocational subjects remain’
- ‘As a result of effective teaching and students’ commitment to learning current (sixth-form) students are making faster progress’



# Areas for continued development

- Teaching and learning
- Outcomes for students in Year 11 for mathematics
- Outcomes in Year 11 for science
- Use of extended written work across all subjects
- Careers strategy for all students
- Ensure the additional funding is being used effectively

## **Next steps**

- New development plan to ensure a clear focus on the continued improvements necessary
- Expect a visit in October

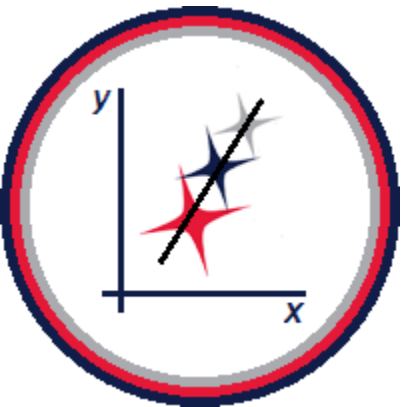


# 3. Maths

Mr Taylor – Director of maths

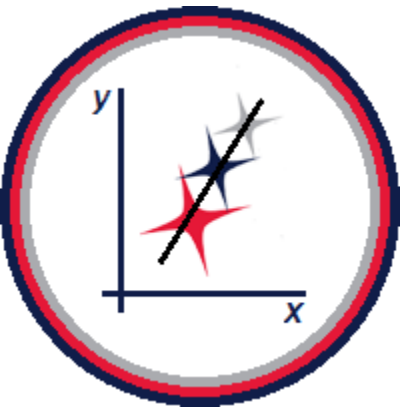
# Vision

**To change the widely held view of maths  
from being: ‘boring’ ‘irrelevant’ and  
‘hard’ to ‘exciting’ ‘relevant’ and ‘easy’.**



# Changes since January and plans for the future

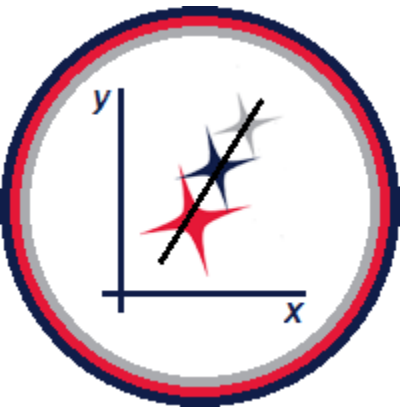
- New scheme of work at KS3 – building on the Mastery approach to learning, continuing work from KS2
- New scheme of work at KS4 – change of exam board (OCR), more regular and robust testing
- Review teaching strategies – increase in group work, practical tasks, mini investigations, maths club... – **make it ‘exciting’**
- Review cross curricular links – **make it ‘relevant’**
- Review revision resources and activities for use both in and out of the academy – **make it ‘easy’**



# Leadership within the team from September

- Mr Taylor – Director of maths
- Mrs Teresa Smith – Lead Practitioner (joined April 2018)
- Mr Naresh Raman – Lead Practitioner (from September)
- Mrs Claire Roberts – Progress leader for KS3

\* We will be fully staffed from September 2018





# 4. English

Miss Burns – Director of Teaching and Learning

## Developments this academic year



- Rewritten curriculum, including increased challenged at KS3 and a change of literature texts studied at KS4
- Extended writing opportunities
- Staff training: marking and moderating
- Sharper focus on progress
- Bespoke intervention
- Out of hours learning (Breakfast boosters and Period 6)

## Monitoring inspection outcomes for English

- “Effective practice” in English
- In English, “pupils usually produce well-presented, good quality work.”
- “Current pupils are making improved progress, particularly in English.”



## Next steps

- Year 10 students sitting their GCSE English Literature examination has alleviated some of the pressures due next year
- Seconded current Progress Leader for key stage 4 to join the extended leadership team from September as Director of English
- To ensure the students in the younger year groups continue to be stretched and challenged building from their strong key stage 2 performance



# 5. Rewards and Sanctions

Mr Williams

## Monitoring inspection outcomes for Behaviour

- “[students] usually behave well in lessons”
- The RESPECT code has led to a marked improvement in student behaviour
- Incidents of inappropriate behaviour have declined considerably
- Students show respect for others and are increasingly proud of their school
- Bullying is rare and staff deal with it effectively
- Attendance is above national average

# Rewards

- Currently in the process of re-designing the rewards system to introduce new 'prizes' that students want
- This will be alongside a new tiered approach for rewards
- Students rewarded for excellent behaviour and attendance with discounts on visits

# Sanctions

- A focus on support to prevent behavioural issues from occurring
- Reworking of the 'isolation' facility within the academy
- Increased focus on further improving punctuality



# 6. School Comms update

Mr Williams – Director of Teaching and Learning

# We are getting there!

- Over 500 students now have an email address for their parents
- Competitions this term to get even more parents on board
- You will start to see letters being sent through the software this half term



# Questions