

11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

**Re: Outcome of the first monitoring visit from Ofsted – 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

You will know that Ofsted were due to visit SUA to look at progress in the academy. Following the recent visit by Her Majesty's Inspector Simon Mosley and Ofsted inspector Mark Feldman, just over a week ago, I wanted to share the very positive findings with you as soon as we received these into the academy. The attached letter and report has been added on to our website and will go live on the Ofsted website on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

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.' Significant and important improvements were seen; I wanted to share some of the highlights with you:

- 'Senior leadership has been strengthened since the time of the last inspection... 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'
- 'Pupils...who attend the Chase View Support Centre achieve a range of positive outcomes. This is a result of the input that they are given within this 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'
- 'As a result of effective training and sharing of best practice, teaching is improving'
- 'More teachers have well-informed expectations of all pupils and 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 during the inspection'
- '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 , during the inspection, they were polite and considerate'
- 'Pupils told inspectors that 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'

Marston Road, Hednesford, Cannock, WS12 4JH

Tel: 01543 224700 | Email: [info@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@suacademy.co.uk) | Web: [www.suacademy.co.uk](http://www.suacademy.co.uk)

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.

I am certain you will agree that this is an encouraging report and I hope it gives you all the reassurances that we are absolutely on the right track and utterly determined to continue to drive forward on this important phase of our development.

I would like to once again invite parents to our next Parents' Forum meeting. This will be held in the academy hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 6-7pm, where we will be joined by governors and Keith Hollins, Chief Executive Officer of Staffordshire University Academies Trust. We will be able to share updates with you since this visit and answer any questions that you may have.

If you would like to contact the academy to discuss any element of the attached letter and report from Simon Mosley please do so via the school app or email the academy through our website or email [info@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@suacademy.co.uk) and a member of the senior leadership team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Finally I wanted to say thank you. Our thanks extends to all families who have continued to support us since the initial judgement and to those who took the time out to complete the Parent View survey through the Ofsted website. 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.

We look forward to our next monitoring visit in the autumn term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Hillier." The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Mrs. R. Hillier  
Principal