

9th May 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Outcome of the third monitoring visit from Ofsted – 9th and 10th April 2019

Following the recent visit by Her Majesty's Inspector Simon Mosley and Ofsted Inspector Mark Feldman, just before the Easter break, I wanted to share the very positive findings with you as soon as we received these into the academy. The attached letter and report have been added on to our website and the report will go live on the Ofsted website on Monday 13th May.

We are still deemed to be, 'taking effective action towards the removal of special measures.' Significant and important improvements were once again seen; I wanted to share some of the highlights with you:

- 'Leaders have taken action to address all the areas for improvement identified at the time of the inspection in 2017. Consequently, the quality of teaching and pupils' progress, behaviour and attendance have all improved.'
- 'The principal and vice-principal have high expectations and they have raised aspirations within a positive and inclusive culture.'
- 'Leadership is developing at all levels and the extended leadership team have continued to improve the school.'
- 'The broad and balanced curriculum is delivered more effectively than it was at the time of the last visit.'
- 'Staff and governors continue to work well with parents. A large majority of parents who responded to Parent View would recommend the school, and the school's parental questionnaire indicates high levels of parental satisfaction.'
- 'The school has a strong safeguarding culture.'
- 'Teaching has continued to improve.'
- 'Lessons take place in a positive climate for learning.'
- 'Planning has improved, and staff apply their strong subject knowledge more effectively.'
- 'Staff now use the school's marking policy more consistently and the quality of feedback has improved.'
- 'The most able pupils are challenged to develop a deep understanding of concepts and pupils with SEND are well supported to make good progress.'
- 'Pupils' behaviour has continued to improve. Pupils behave well in class and during social time.'
- 'Pupils feel safe in school and they report that bullying is rare.'
- 'Attendance has continued to improve, and persistent absence has declined.'
- 'The 'form tutor first' approach is now more embedded. Consequently, most staff are taking full responsibility for following up issues related to attendance, behaviour and personal development.'
- 'Current pupils are making better progress than previous cohorts.'
- 'Sixth-form provision has improved since the last monitoring inspection...Strengths that were identified at the time of the previous monitoring visit have been maintained and effective action has been taken to address weaker areas.'
- 'The trust has continued to commission high-quality support and challenge from a company of external consultants.'

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We are once again, really pleased that this third monitoring visit was so successful for the academy's students, families and staff members. The report clearly demonstrates further progress from the findings that were published following our first and second monitoring visits held in April 2018 and October 2018. The culture within the academy is strong and there is a real sense of purpose and belief in our Team SUA ethos.

We are making the necessary changes to continue to secure better outcomes for our learners. We are two years on from receiving the Special Measures judgement. We now look forward to the autumn term when we expect our next full inspection and hope to receive a new Ofsted grading.

The hard work and determination will continue, we have the recognition that the academy is still on track and part of this is reflected in our student numbers for September. Having taken a dip to below 100 in our current Year 7, we are delighted to see over 130 students and families have selected SUA as their first choice for September 2019, signaling a real sense of confidence from our wider community.

We would like to invite parents to our next Parents' Forum meeting. This will be held in the academy hall on Monday 13th May, 6-7pm, where we will be joined by our CEO - Mr Keith Hollins, our Chair of Governors - Mrs Heather Holyhead, members of the Leadership Team and other academy colleagues. This will be an opportunity for us to share further details with you and offer you all the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

If you would like to contact the academy to discuss any element of the attached letter or report from Simon Mosley please do so via the school app or email the academy: info@suacademy.co.uk and a member of the Leadership Team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you once more to all of our families, our local academy council governors and the Trust for all of their continued support. Well done to everyone in Team SUA; great things are achievable with belief and the support of one another.

The examination season has already begun for our students in Years 10, 11 and 13. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone taking external examinations the very best of luck.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. R. Hillier
Principal