

23rd October 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Outcome of the second monitoring visit from Ofsted – 10th and 11th October 2018

Following the recent visit by Her Majesty's Inspector Simon Mosley and Ofsted Inspector Julie Griffiths, 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 Monday 5th November.

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 and managers have a thorough understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses'
- 'The principal and vice principal have high expectations and they have raised the aspirations of staff and pupils. They have developed a more positive culture in the school'
- 'The extended leadership team is having a positive impact. Directors are taking action to improve the provision and outcomes in their areas of responsibility and they are influencing whole-school developments'
- 'The curriculum is broad and balanced and provides pupils with wider opportunities to study creative subjects than it did in the past'
- 'There is a strong safeguarding culture in the school'
- 'Staff and governors continue to work well with parents. Communication is good...the recent Parents' Forum meeting was well attended...most parents who made their views known during the inspection would recommend the school to another parent'
- 'Staffordshire University Academy Trust has continued to provide effective support and challenge to school leaders'
- 'Teaching is improving as the culture of higher expectations is emerging'
- 'Pupils have more pride in their work and presentation is improving'
- 'Behaviour has continued to improve'
- 'Staff now manage behaviour more effectively and pupils are taking more responsibility for their action'
- 'Team SUA is starting to embed'
- 'The school is calm and orderly during social time and less learning time is lost now as a result of disruption'
- 'Pupils say bullying is rare'
- 'The importance of attendance has a higher profile and the attendance intervention manager is having a positive impact through her work with families'
- 'The pastoral system has been strengthened and the role of the form tutor has been enhanced'
- 'The quality of careers education has improved'
- 'English outcomes improved and results in mathematics improved slightly. Consequently greater proportions of pupils gained standard, strong or high passes in both English and mathematics than in 2017'
- 'There is some high-quality teaching in the sixth form and the wider curriculum offer is good'

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We are once again, really pleased that this second monitoring visit was so successful for the academy. It compounds the findings that were published following our first monitoring visit in April earlier this year. We know that we are making the necessary changes to continue to secure better outcomes for our learners. Many of the points in the report recognise that it is too early to see the impact of some of these changes but I hope you are reassured that this is another positive step forward for all students and staff.

I am certain you will agree that this is an encouraging second report acknowledging that we are on the right track and utterly determined to continue to drive forward with 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 13^h November, 6-7pm, where we will be joined by governors, members of the Extended Leadership Team and Heads of Year. 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 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 Senior Leadership Team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you to families, governors and the Trust for all of your continued support and well done to everyone in Team SUA! We are so proud of the progress we are all achieving together.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Hillier." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mrs. R. Hillier
Principal