

17 July 2018

Dear Parent/ Carer

We wanted to write at our earliest opportunity about the recent Ofsted report which will be published shortly.

As you know, Hillsview Academy was placed into Special Measures in May 2017, and since then Ofsted has visited the school a number of times to check on progress against our action plan for improvements. We are very pleased to be able to share with you that Ofsted have concluded from their follow up inspection that we are taking effective action to make the improvements needed.

The inspection report notes that the actions that both the academy and AET are taking are fit for purpose, and highlights the following:

- Mrs Simon's determination to address areas of improvement with urgency and the support she is receiving from staff alongside improved staff morale;
- An improvement in the quality of teaching with raised expectations;
- Plans to support teachers are having an impact with teachers improving their practice;
- An improvement in behaviour, with reductions in pupils being removed from lessons and punctuality having improved markedly;
- Uniform compliance has improved, and internal truancy significantly reduced and almost eradicated;
- Pupils talk positively about the changes that are being made; and
- Improved governance, led by an experienced and professional Chair of Governors. As a result, governors visit the school more regularly and are better at holding leaders to account.

The report also notes that from September, the academy will be fully staffed which will help secure greater stability and consistency.

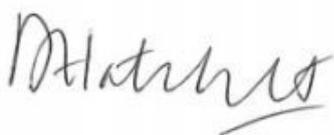
This is all positive and welcome news. However, we remain absolutely focused on the need to accelerate the rate of improvement. In particular, although fixed-term exclusions have reduced further, the number of exclusions remains high in comparison to national figures.

The other main area of focus for the coming year is ensuring greater accuracy of our teachers' assessments and raising standards of teaching even more, so that pupils across all age ranges and in all subjects have a consistently positive experience.

We hope that this update provides you with reassurance that things are moving in the right direction, and that we continue to be absolutely committed to turning the academy around, so that Hillsview provides the education that your children deserve.

We should receive another visit from Ofsted in the [autumn term 2018], and we expect to be able to report to you that further progress has been made.

Yours sincerely



**David Hatchett**  
**National Director of Secondary**  
**Academies Enterprise Trust**



**Robert Turner**  
**Chair of Governors**  
**Hillsview Academy**