

18 September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the new academic year at Hanson School. We have some important information about the future of the school.

Following the Ofsted monitoring visit on 9 July 2015 we are pleased to say that the letter is now on our website. It speaks very positively about the changes made in the school since it was placed in Special Measures in February 2015.

Highlights include:

- “New leaders having a positive impact and starting in bringing about necessary improvements.”
- “Senior leaders and staff are more visible around the School and also they have acted swiftly in clarifying leadership responsibilities and developing stronger lines of accountability.”
- “Action has been taken promptly to improve the leadership and management of child protection. A software system has been introduced to log and analyse incidents and observations more rigorously. Appropriate training and safeguarding has been provided for all teaching and support staff”.
- “Appropriate action has been taken to improve the management of site security.”
- “The behaviour policy has been revised with a clearer system of consequences and increased responsibilities for subject appointments.”
- “School priority is to improve behaviour and the quality of teaching.”
- For the Hearing Impaired and Visual Impaired students “leaders, well supported by local authority, have reduced the isolation of the Hearing Impaired and Visual Impaired provision for this school. Communication systems between ARC and mainstream staff have improved.”
- “Staff have been trained to track progress of different groups more analytically.”
- “The local authority has provided additional funding for leadership posts along with a range of relevant consultancy and training including for safeguarding.”

In conclusion the monitoring visit judged that the local authority statement of action and the School’s improvement plans are fit for purpose. The full letter is available to read on the school’s web site.

This is an encouraging start, but we realise there is still much to do.

The interim executive board of Hanson School has passed a resolution naming Wakefield City Academies Trust (WCAT) as the preferred academy sponsor. Hanson School will proceed to convert to academy status with Wakefield City Academies Trust as a sponsor subject to formal approval by the Regional Schools’ Commissioner. WCAT’s Chief Executive, Mr Alan Yellup OBE, will be organising meetings for parents/carers, staff and students in the next few weeks to explain the process of converting to academy status, how WCAT will work with Hanson School and the next steps.

Mr David Maxwell will no longer be consultant Head Teacher and he will be replaced for one day a week by Mr Graham Moffat from Wakefield City Academies Trust.

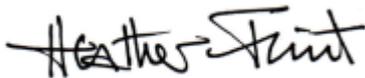
We would like to place on record our thanks to Mr Maxwell for his important contribution to the development of Hanson school. In addition the consultant Vice Principal Mrs Jean Watt has gone on to a headship and has been replaced by Mr Mukesh Nar. Again our thanks go to Mrs Watt for her hard work here at Hanson.

We would like to update parents/carers on the 2015 examination results. GCSE results for 5 plus A* to C grades, including English and mathematics were at 31%. Within these results there were some very good individual performances; however this highlights the needs for rapid improvements in the coming year. 'A' level outcomes compare favourably with schools locally and nationally and are good.

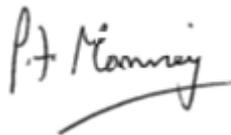
We realise that this is a period of rapid change for Hanson School and look forward to working with you this term to ensure that the school moves forward for the benefit of all our pupils.

Polite Reminder – The School will be closed from 22 – 25 September inclusive.

Yours sincerely



Heather Flint
Chair of IEB



Paul Morrissey
Executive Support Head Teacher for School
Leadership