

Ref: HF/RW  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about changes in the leadership of Hanson and that the latest Ofsted monitoring letter of Hanson School will be published on both the school and the Ofsted website on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Although, I know parents/carers are extremely sorry to see Paul Morrissey leave, you will want to join with me in thanking him for the strong, purposeful and clear leadership he has brought to Hanson. He has worked extremely hard with the team of senior leaders and others to ensure that Hanson is on the road to improvement so all students will benefit from the best possible education. As you are very aware and, as the Ofsted monitoring letter sets out, we are not there yet and recruiting good staff remains a key issue for us. However, the Interim Executive Board looks forward to working with the proposed academy sponsor, Wakefield City Academies Trust, and the local authority in order to continue to improve the teaching and learning of students at Hanson.

From January 2016, Mr Graham Moffatt from Wakefield City Academies Trust (WCAT) will be taking over as Consultant Headteacher for five days a week. Following her absence, Ms Churton will not be returning to Hanson School.

The Ofsted letter highlights a number of positive developments in the school against the many areas for improvement since the last visit in July 2015. These include:

- Leaders are highly committed and determined to bring about improvement and are reflective, open, honest in their school self-evaluation.
- The Interim Executive Board (IEB) has developed stronger systems of scrutiny and they expertly question the progress of leaders across all aspects of school leadership and management.
- The Local Authority and the proposed academy sponsor have built a positive working relationship which is supporting the transition to academy status.
- Improvements in behaviour e.g. students are behaving more safely around the site, behaviour in lessons has improved due to the increased visibility of senior leaders.
- Improvements in safeguarding due to the introduction of more effective systems and more effective work with other agencies.
- Good results in A-Level and BTEC subjects in Year 13 in the summer examination results.
- Some improvements in teaching which could be seen especially in Art and History.

However, the judgement of HMI at this time is that 'The school is not taking effective action towards the removal of special measures.'

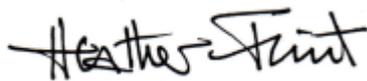
This is due to poor outcomes at GCSE for too many students in the summer 2015 together with ongoing staffing difficulties in English and Mathematics.

Inspectors noted that 'in better English teaching, enthusiastic presentations convey teachers' expert knowledge and a love of literature which stimulates students and gets them thinking.....In other classes, taken by a sequence of temporary teachers, there is little work and poor marking.' This highlights the contrasting situation in English currently and the need for rapid progress, which the school's leadership team and IEB are well aware of and are working urgently to address.

Thank you for your continued support of Hanson throughout this challenging time. I hope you all enjoy the holiday period and, on behalf of the IEB, I wish you a happy and peaceful New Year.

I look forward to working with you next term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Flint". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'H' and 'F'.

Heather Flint

Chair of Hanson Interim Executive Board