

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you to update you on the progress which the school is making following the publication of the HMI report in December. The report recognised the positive steps that the school is making to secure its future leadership and access support through joining a Multi-Academy and Trust (MAT).

In terms of leadership, the Governing Body has been strengthened to support and challenge the school more effectively. A National Leader of Governance has continued to provide continuing professional development to the governing board. Governors have been busy pursuing the options concerning which multi-academy trust to join and has now made a recommendation to the Regional Schools' Commissioner, backed by the Local Authority. The RSC still needs to ratify this decision. Joining a MAT will give us much greater access to support and enable us to share ideas and resources. I believe that this is a very positive step forward for us in raising achievement for all our students.

The Governing Body has also been recruiting a new Head Teacher. We had a pleasing number of applications and interviewed this week. They interviewed some very good candidates but they did not appoint at this stage. A second round of interviews will therefore take place for this key post. We will keep you informed regarding our progress on this but it is our aim to have secured the right person to lead our school ready for September and the start of the new academic year. In the meantime, I will continue in the role of associate Head Teacher with the support of Mrs Barker – National Leader of Education.

A new development to support our students working towards external exams is the purchase of a licence for GCSEPod, an internet based revision tool. The application can be freely downloaded onto any device which provides internet access. The 'pods' are short 5 minute clips which go through the key ideas needed in a large range of subjects and act as an excellent revision aid. All students in Year 10 and Year 11 can log onto GCSEPod and set up their own password. We encourage everyone to make use of this excellent resource.

If you have any questions please contact me at school and we will do our best to answer them. In the meantime thank you for your continued support of our school and may I take this opportunity to wish you a happy half term.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Pearson (Associate Head Teacher)