

February 2018

Dear parents/carers

I am writing as we head through another half term to deliver the positive news that OfSTED and Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) have indicated that school and its community continues to take effective action to remove the school from special measures. A huge thank you for all your support – it has been a collective effort from all stakeholders: students, parents, staff and supporters of the school.

Notable elements of improvement are:

- Further strengthening of subject leadership;
- Student safety and that bullying is infrequent and if it happens it is dealt with appropriately;
- Tipton School Academy Trust provides high quality support where needed and governors are astute and challenge to ensure improvement from leadership;
- Student books show clear evidence of increased expectation and standard;
- Teacher planning shows greater evidence of the use of progress information to ensure challenge and support for school;
- The quality of self-evaluation and the training and development that has come from that is improving the learning of students.

These improvements are against the first 11 elements on page 3 of the Ofsted report itself and are really encouraging however findings on the last 2 elements, behaviour and attendance have not made the same level of improvement. It is against these that I ask for your continued support. It is vital that we move the attendance at school forward by supporting our young people to be in school every day for example:


- Avoiding unnecessary absence e.g. if a doctor's appointment is needed, try to arrange in the afternoon after 2pm/3pm if at all possible;
- Ensure attendance on a snow day as we will flex the day so that students can safely attend all day;
- If they have a 'sniffle' or 'the cold' please please see if they can do the day.

All these do improve progress because there are no gaps in learning but they also improve attendance too.

It is also really important that we continue to address persistent low level disruption and defiance because even though Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students say behaviour is better, some lessons are still being disrupted. Therefore we are going to further develop Positive Discipline to focus upon Behaviour for Success. Proposed changes to these developments can be seen in the attached information. Any further refinements will be communicated with a final amended booklet for all parents/carers. Throughout the next 3 weeks parents, students and staff will have the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed developments so that we are ready to launch on 26 February 2018. We believe that this will both give flexibility and opportunity for success early in the process of improving behaviour, learning and attendance. Your feedback as always is very important to us as we continue to develop together.

Finally, I wish you and our young people a good half term break as it arrives and we will see them back in school on Monday 26 February.

Best wishes



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