



Woodlands Academy

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9th September 2022

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

Ofsted Monitoring Visit 28 – 29th June 2022

Please find attached the letter and report following the first of our monitoring visits. I would like to take a moment to explain the process and the context of their findings.

In November 2021, Woodlands was graded as Inadequate in all areas. Our responsibility is to then follow the legal process of working towards the removal of these special measures. We have 30 months (from November 2021) including a maximum of 5 monitoring visits from Ofsted Inspectors so a potential final end date of May 2024 to complete this. We hope to achieve this before then but I must manage expectations as no school, having been graded as inadequate in all areas, has ever achieved the removal of special measures on their first visit. It is a longer process.

One of my first tasks was to write a plan of action. You will see that my plan continues to be fit for purpose. It also had to be approved by the Department for Education. The plan was split into different phases; 1. Safeguarding. 2. Behaviour. 3. Quality of Teaching. All of these areas improve the school's ability to meet the needs of their pupils.

At the time of this monitoring visit, Inspectors found strong evidence that phase 1 and 2 had the impact we wanted. They came to this conclusion from evidence found within in the school but also by capturing the voices of the pupils and from parents. They make reference to this in their report. This is huge progress, and I thank you for your contribution in supporting many of the changes and working with us to drive forward these improvements.

We have now started phase 3, the Quality of our Teaching and Learning. As with the two previous phases, this is a huge piece of work, with many layers. Again, Ofsted recognise this as stated under 'priorities for further improvement'. I would like to share with you what this includes.

We will be baselining all pupils, completing new assessments, because this is their starting point. We will identify the gaps in their learning with the intention of filling these gaps before supporting them to move forward and build on this knowledge. As our assessments showed in January, we have many gifted and talented pupils and we wish to extend their abilities. We also have pupils, who have a lower starting point so we need to break their learning down into smaller chunks for them to also achieve and make progress. We are therefore introducing a new tracking and monitoring system that will give staff, pupils and parents/carers accurate information of where each child is and what they need to do to move forward.



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I am also investing heavily in the annual review process. I want each EHCP to reflect current targets being up to date. I am bringing to the school further external support to help improve this. Staff will benefit from additional training in setting these targets and working towards meeting them. There are also changes with our curriculum, as we extend our offer with all qualifications having national recognition. We also want to improve the balance between our core subjects (English, Maths, Science and PSHE) with the range of vocational subjects. This needs to be strong, as we believe in the importance of education and pupils having choice and improving opportunity by the time they leave.

Reading for all pupils is a priority as we foster and promote the enjoyment of reading. This in turn, greatly improves each pupil's ability to access all areas of their learning and this is vitally important.

We are so proud to see pupils return ready for the challenges of this new academic year. Many now have their own pencil case and look very smart in their uniform, it is great to see. I am also pleased to share with you, our school will have a visit from the Regional School Commissioner, The Director of Education for Lincolnshire and of course Ofsted. I am determined to raise the profile and standards within the school, for us all to celebrate the success and achievements of our pupils.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me with questions or further clarifications from the report. I am incredibly pleased with our progress as stated: **'leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures'**. However, we still have much to do!

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Kind regards



Mr C Smith

Headteacher



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