

23rd November 2017

Tel: 020 8804 4126
Fax: 020 8804 2739

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Responding to the Ofsted report – Moving forward

Both myself and Andy Nicholas were very pleased to have had the opportunity to talk to so many of you directly at the four meetings organised to discuss our response to the Ofsted report. We told you about the plans we are putting in place to turn the school around as quickly as possible. A sincere thank you for all your initial comments and suggestions about improving the school.

If you were not able to attend the meetings, please don't worry as we will regularly keep everyone informed and updated, as we all embark on a new journey to make the school great again. We also promised to listen to you, and whenever we can, to take your views on board, and if not, to explain why.

We thought it would be helpful for all parents if we summarised the five main issues raised at the meetings. These were:

1. Questions about leadership and staffing

Parents highlighted their concerns about changes in the senior leadership at the school. This had impacted, they felt, on the quality of teaching and therefore on the outcomes for children. As far as possible, allowing for staff to still be able to make decisions about their careers, it was argued that teachers need to be retained by the school (and with their year groups) in order to give a greater consistency to learning as the children progress through the school.

2. The impact of too much change

A related issue was the way in which the school had expanded to almost 1,000 pupils in recent years: this growth led to many changes, both for parents and children, with questions around how standards had suffered, plus the loss, for some, of what was considered a very close knit school community.

3. The need for better communication

Better communication was a major theme at the meetings. This included more communication between the teachers and parents, as well as from the school directly. We had lots of different ideas from parents about how this might be done and there are plenty of opportunities to explore.



4. A different approach to homework

A strong theme was that a more rigorous approach to homework was required than it was felt was currently in place. There also needed to be a better understanding of what was expected of the children, the role of parents, and how feedback would be delivered.

5. Making it much easier to know about the curriculum

Parents wanted more information about the curriculum and what their children were studying on a more regular basis.

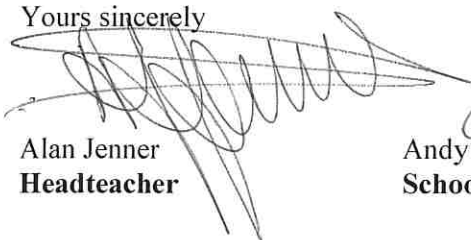
What happens next?

As we explained at the meetings, the school has submitted a very detailed Action Plan to the Department for Education (DfE). The plan covers every single area of improvement that Ofsted said was required. Once approved we will publish the plan on our website. The school will soon begin to receive broadly termly inspection visits from the Department for Education (DfE) to ensure we are making rapid progress and that we are delivering on our promises in the Action Plan. We then intend to organise follow up meetings with parents after these visits and publish updates on the website. At these meetings you will be able to hear from and put questions to myself or Andy, the Trust's Chief Executive, and representatives of the Rapid Improvement Board (RIB), which has replaced the local governing body, and which will have oversight and scrutiny of the Action plan. The Rapid Improvement Board (RIB) will also publish summaries of its meetings.

It is too early for us to tell you what we will be doing in every area to get the school to where it needs to be. A number of improvements however, have already been made. For example, Ofsted said the school needed senior stable leadership. I have been appointed the interim Headteacher and Andy Nicholas is supporting me as Senior Headteacher and School Improvement Consultant. We are both very experienced Headteachers – with 50 years between us now – and will be with the school until a new Headteacher is appointed. The Trust's Chief Executive, Marino Charalambous, has made it very clear that he will only appoint the right candidate to Cuckoo Hall and it is likely therefore that Andy and I will be with you for the rest of the academic year. In order to improve communication, I hope you will all be pleased by our new weekly 2 page newsletter, which will start shortly.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the school please let us know by emailing isuggest@chat-edu.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Alan Jenner
Headteacher



Andy Nicholas
School Improvement Consultant