

Dear Parents.

We are pleased to enclose the latest OFSTED report for West Ashton.

It was a rigorous two days with three inspectors at one point.

We are enormously proud of what the school has achieved as it leaves 'Special Measures'. This is major progress in every sense from where the school was in 2017. The Inspector stressed how far the school had come and, as described below, how near it is to being judged a 'Good' School. Mrs. Huxham and the wonderful staff have done a superb job.

It is worth some clarity. The reason it states that there isn't a previous inspection grade is that when a school becomes an academy after a failed inspection (as was the case with West Ashton in 2016) it administratively becomes a new school. In reality it carries the last inspection judgement, which, for West Ashton was 'Inadequate'.

So, it is to that end that this judgement should be viewed – the school is out of 'special measures' and has come up a grade.

Throughout the inspection the main inspector talked constantly of how close to 'Good' the school was in all it was doing. In the final analysis she said it was about five months off 'Good'. This was, admittedly, frustrating. However, the strong improvement work has only been happening since September 2017.

The school is in a very strong place for the future. Below are quotations from the Church of England Inspection carried out only weeks before OFSTED. The Church of England inspect their schools looking at similar aspects as OFSTED but with a strong focus on the behaviour and personal development of the pupils. Their inspections are known as 'SIAMS'. Here are some quotes from that inspection:

- *The school has made significant progress since the previous inspection and the drive for improvement continues strongly. The vision is central to its work. However, the theological underpinning of the vision is not well understood, and governors are not monitoring its impact rigorously enough.*
- *Relationships throughout the school community are of the highest quality.*
- *The school is highly inclusive. The exceptional support and alternative curriculum given to a group of vulnerable pupils allows them to feel valued and succeed in their learning.*
- *The future development plans for the school are guided by the vision but it is not always evident in all school policies.*
- *The partnership with the Acorn Education Trust is exceptionally strong and it has given the school very good support.*
- *The vision of the school is complemented by that of the Trust. The majority of pupils make good progress at the school and experiences throughout the curriculum, such as Forest School and clubs, broaden their horizons in line with the vision.*

The school has come such a long way and with this excellent team the school will continue to grow and flourish. Please feel free to contact us with any queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Max Burr, Executive Headteacher; Mari Webster, Co-Chair of the Academy Council; Robin Stone, Co-Chair of the Academy Council.