



Our Ref CTR/ESD

8th December 2015

Dear parents

I have now finally received the report from the Ofsted inspection that took place on 4th and 5th November 2015 and it is attached for your information.

Clearly the best news is that the College is no longer deemed inadequate and requiring Special Measures. Normally the time scale for a school to have special measures removed from the date of the report being published is two years. This has been achieved in only 20 months at Oakmeeds through the resilience, persistence and determination of the College leaders, staff, students and governors.

At this time I would like to thank all parents for your full support and confidence shown since January 2014. We appreciate that from Ofsted Parent View responses over the last two years we have had the backing of parents. It is acknowledged in the report that you appreciate that students enjoy coming to school, feel looked after and benefit from a broad curriculum that is relevant to their needs. Knowing you have been behind us has helped considerably on a daily basis.

We are very pleased that the report contains many positive comments and whilst now being graded as Requires Improvement, HMI recognised that Oakmeeds has made considerable progress over the last two years and is an improving school with improving GCSE results. The team also acknowledged that our own evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the College is generally accurate and we are aware that there is still work to do before all students are fully achieving to their potential and we can be confidently judged as Good again according to the inspection framework criteria.

In the new Ofsted framework that was introduced in September 2015 the "bar has been raised" again, particularly with regard to what is known as behaviour for learning. Unfortunately the team saw some examples of a small number of students not being fully engaged in their learning or demonstrating inappropriate behaviour and this has influenced the judgment on behaviour overall, which previously has not been anything but Good. This is one of the specific areas for improvement identified.

Our next task is to put a revised improvement plan in place and agree upon the actions needed to address the issues that the inspection team have included as areas for further development. Staff at the College remain determined to take the next steps and are committed to doing whatever is necessary. We are clear as to what is required and we will be working on these aspects tirelessly in the period leading up to academy conversion and beyond. Becoming an academy from April 2016 with the University of Brighton Academies Trust will inevitably have a significant part to play in the future developments at Oakmeeds.

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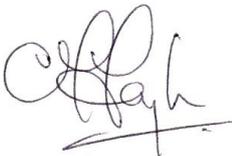
As you may be aware from recent letters to you West Sussex schools are lobbying very publically for fairer funding. Over recent years the College has, in common with all other West Sussex secondary schools, been funded at a much lower rate than virtually all other local authorities across the country and this has had a significant impact on what we have been able to provide in a falling roll situation.

We are currently in the process of bidding, in collaboration with Millais School, for extra funds to help move the College from Requires Improvement to Good. If successful the additional training and staff development opportunities will help to further raise the quality of leadership and teaching and learning across the College with positive impact on student's achievement in the future.

On a final note, as I have done after all the visits by Ofsted over the last two years, I would again like to extend my thanks to the students who continue to meet our expectations and support us on a daily basis. These students remain a constantly positive feature in reports back to us from the many inspectors that have visited the College and they deserve the recognition that has been given.

A copy of the full report will be placed on the College website and you will also be able to access it at www.ofsted.gov.uk in 5 days time. Alternatively, a paper copy will be available from the College reception from tomorrow. Our revised Improvement Plan will be available on the Oakmeeds website, under About Oakmeeds, Ofsted section from the start of next term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. J. Taylor', with a horizontal line underneath.

C. J. Taylor B Ed, MA, FRSA
Headteacher