



October 2018 Message from the Chair of the Interim Academy Board (IAB)



Judith Johnson

Independent Chair of the Interim Academy Board (IAB)
St. Margaret Clitherow Primary School

At the beginning of October, we received the termly monitoring visit from Ofsted. Ideally, we would have preferred this to have been later in the Autumn term so there was more evidence of impact but nevertheless we were pleased with the outcome of the visit. The full report is on the school's website. All the recommendations were ones we were already working on and have been tracked through into the School Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

The key strengths noted were about the improvements in writing, teacher assessment and planning which is now embedded, Key stage 2 outcomes were in line with national averages and slightly above in Early Years. Leadership now has the stability to focus on embedding the improvements made. We are not letting up on the pace and the push for even greater improvement and accelerating the learning for children. We were delighted that parents reported on the positive relationships with the school and with the progress information provide about your children's learning. We were a little concerned about a feedback comment about the school website where we think there must have been a misunderstanding as the website is fully up to date.

The recent Open Afternoon was very positive, and we were pleased that so many turned up for the Celebration of Learning. Two members of the IAB have held a Portfolio lead visit in the school and were pleased with what they saw and children's evident excitement in preparing to show case their learning for their families. I recently attended a Celebration Assembly to hand out some awards and it was really encouraging to see so many proud parents in the hall.

Can I please take this opportunity to remind you that the school is a mobile phone free zone during the hours when the children are present in public spaces? In common with most schools, this is a requirement of the policy to safeguard your children and under the General Data Protection Regulations from the European Union. Please respect this request. We have had a recent incident where when a parent was asked to stop using their phone the member of staff received some rudeness in return when they were upholding the policies to protect children.

Coming up in November and December we have a continuing focus on Early Years and the Curriculum. At our October meeting we focused on Safeguarding and the Performance and Standards Data for the first half term. We have now launched the advertisement for the permanent Local Governing Body for the school to replace the IAB after the summer of 2019

Judith