



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



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St. Margaret Clitherow Primary School

Welcome back to this Briefing after the Easter Break – the IAB did not meet in March and will not meet in May.

- Following the feedback from the Parents Drop-In session and Survey that one of our members (Tracey Heale) carried out in March, this Briefing will now be issued to all families separately from the Headteacher's Newsletter. We were pleased that some (5) parents did turn up but would have liked a few more and a full response to the Survey instead of the 15 responses we did receive. We are in the process of pulling together the results and the Headteacher will cover the key themes and any actions in a future Newsletter to you all.
- At our April meeting we were delighted to note that at the majority of the 2017-18 Improvement Action Plan is complete – there are only six actions still to be put in place out of over 200 at the start of the year. This is a considerable achievement for the school as there are still 3 months left for the action plan to run. We are already thinking about the next plan for 2018-19 due to start in September.
- We also received a positive and clear report on pupil's development, behaviour and well-being. The positive feedback about the confidence with which your children were able to talk about their learning and how safe they felt with the work done to prevent any bullying and the recent work on the Behaviour policy – were all impressive. This report provided so much positive evidence that the IAB have agreed that the evidence now supports the school being graded as Grade 2 (Good) for this area rather than being in an Ofsted category of concern.
- Another 'deep-dive' report focused on the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and showed significant improvements in many areas. There is a high degree of confidence in the accuracy of teacher assessments and predicted outcomes for next month's assessments for year 2 and year 6 pupils. Both reports included positive case studies of where individual progress with children has been made over and above initial expectations. This is powerful evidence that shows how the school is really beginning to make a difference.
- Over the next two terms we hope to be able to continue that rate of progress so that other areas can also be rated Grade 2 (Good). Attendance has improved, and we are now in line with national averages although at 95.7%, we are still a little short of our 96% target. It would be wonderful if we could get to that level for the rest of the summer term!
- Thank you to all those who have resisted the temptation to take your son or daughter out of school for a holiday during the school term – it helps our Attendance figures - but much more importantly, it increases your child's time with the curriculum and key skills and increases their chances of meeting or exceeding the high ambitions we and you rightly have for them.
- We are disappointed that we have not had any take-up of the Breakfast Club as it was something parents requested, and the school has invested in the equipment to run one. Please think again about the value of this – all the national evidence suggests that they help children to be readier for learning first thing in the school day and to get more from the learning opportunities, as well as developing their social skills.
- At our next meeting we will be discussing the transition from the IAB into the full Governing Body that should be in place sometime in the Spring of 2019. We already have 2 possible names and are exploring a Foundation Governor.
- We have also asked the Headteacher to share with you again the staffing structure in her regular Newsletter as we know there is some confusion with recent change; this will clear up who is leading on which subject areas.