



January 2019 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

I know that Miss Gill will have shared with you the highlights from the recent HMI Monitoring Visit in January before this newsletter reaches you and I just wanted to share with you all how pleased we were, as governors, that so many of the successes of the school in recent months have been recognised.

The lead inspector agreed with me in my interview with him that we have now turned two significant corners in our journey to Good and Outstanding and he can see the positive changes in the school – particularly in curriculum work and your children's enjoyment of their learning – we all hope that you can too as parents and families? Some quotes below to take pleasure from

'A concentrated focus on developing a new curriculum has taken place. This is ensuring that pupils have access to a much broader curriculum and pupils enjoy the subjects they study'

'Teaching staff in key stage 2 use their assessment information effectively to provide pupils with a greater level of challenge.'

'Persistent absenteeism has reduced dramatically and very few pupils now miss school regularly. This is a significant improvement from the inspection in February 2017 when almost one in 10 pupils were regularly absent. Pupils are keen to attend school. One pupil, typical of many, commented, 'I like the afternoons better with the new curriculum. It is much more hands on, we have more control over our own learning.'

Clearly we are not complacent – we know there is still much to do and embed, however we were pleased that the HMI confirmed that all the Headteacher's judgements about progress were accurate.

Please continue to show the school your support for their efforts to reach excellence. Help us with attendance to keep the statistics as high as possible; help your child to continue with their learning at home – particularly with the afternoon topic activities covering many of the subject areas; if your child is in Year 2 or Year 6 ask their teacher what you can do to help them to reach the expected standard at the summer term assessments so they are well placed for their next phase of learning in 2019-20.

And remember – we still need offers to join the permanent Local Governing Body when the IAB finally hangs up its pens and checklists! There is no better way to show your commitment to the school in the future. If you would like a recruitment pack – it's on the School website - or see someone in the Office at school.

Judith