



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

Positive feedback this month from two reviews that have taken place over the last half term.

Firstly, a successful and positive visit before half term from the Regional Schools Commissioner's Education Adviser - the verbal debriefing he provided was very encouraging. As part of the process he had a telecon with me as Chair of the IAB, and I was extremely pleased that before I could even feed in all the positives I wanted to from the IAB, he had already registered and shared many of them during his time in the school. We were particularly pleased that he noted that the children were articulate about their learning and able to talk about what they were working on and their next steps in learning in a confident manner – that what we, and I know you as parents and carers, want for the children. The feedback has given the school confidence to be able to move forward optimistically now as a school on its journey to Good.

The other review was on safeguarding and SEND conducted as one of the IAB Portfolio visits. Again, a positive picture that left us with no major issues at the governance level other than ones all schools face with SEND in terms of capacity and resources. It was good to hear about:

- The knowledge and confidence of the SENDCo – Lorraine Dudman
- The inclusive practice and culture across the school
- The targets on SEND for the TAs in the school to keep the focus highlighted on children's needs
- The evidence of interventions in practice to make a difference for individual children and their progress levels

We wanted to alert you to two areas as parents and ask for your help and support.

The school staff are working extremely hard to ensure that your children make as much progress in their education as possible and enter their next key stage at this school or at their secondary school as well equipped as any child elsewhere in the country. The tests next term will be one measure of this and will be the focus of the forthcoming Year 6 Parents Evening.

If you would like to think about how you can help your child to do even better in their tests without stressing them and what role Homework and Home Learning can play so you can help them (and help us) to consolidate and stretch their learning, please talk to their class teacher or the Headteacher. We know that a lot of gains can be made in a short space of time if the key people in a child's life from home and school pull together to reinforce the learning process.

The other side of this is to ensure that your child attends school 100% of the time. The school needs to reduce the unauthorised absence levels, but far more importantly, we want to take every minute that is available in your child's school time as an opportunity for learning. A lost 10 days across a year is in effect a disadvantage that can make half a level of progress difference to them. Across all their time in school this can potentially put a child more than a year behind other children their age. Please help us achieve 100% attendance between now and the summer!