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Headmaster



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Dear Parent/Guardian

You will undoubtedly remember that some two weeks ago, on 8th and 9th May, we had an official visit from an Ofsted Inspection Team. The consequence of such a visit to any school is the subsequent publication of a report on the inspection team's findings and judgements about the school, and we are writing to let you know that we will make that report available to you on the school website as from Monday 27th May.

There are a great many positives throughout the report, as well as recognition of the number of improvements that have been on-going since September. The continuing impact of these strategies has already resulted in better outcomes for the boys in their module results so far this year. We look forward to the final results in August which will allow us to demonstrate continued impact over time to the inspectors when they return later on in 2014.

Two of the most positive aspects fed back to us related to your response to the 'Parent View' opportunity, which allowed you to communicate your thoughts about the school to the inspection team, and the equally positive responses from the boys that were interviewed, who spoke in glowing terms about their experiences at the school. The overwhelming support from our student and parent body was fantastic to hear and we thank you very much for that.

What the report allows us to do is to celebrate all that has been, officially, confirmed as good and outstanding about the school. At the same time there is clear indication of the areas that are in need of improvement. We take great comfort in the fact that there is little in the report's 'summary of key findings' that is not in our current 'School Improvement Plan' and already being rigorously worked on. We also share Ofsted's view that only the consistent reinforcement of the highest aspirations are appropriate if the boys are to achieve even more than they are predicted to.

We are sure you will be as disappointed as we were to find that the judgement is that the school 'Requires Improvement'. We are also sure you will find it as difficult as we do to read some of the comments in the report when you consider the journey the school has been on over the past three years or so.

We are determined, however, that when Ofsted return in twelve or eighteen months' time we will have moved a long way down the road towards returning to our 'Outstanding' status.

Thank you for your continued, outstanding, support for all that we do and to the great many of you who took the time to let the inspection team know how supportive you are.

If you have any queries as a result of reading the report please do not hesitate to contact either of us via the school.

Regards

Tony Willis (Acting Head)

David Simpson (Chair of Governors)