



WESTLEIGH HIGH SCHOOL

Aspiring & Achieving Together

30 January 2017

HEADTEACHER: MR CARLTON BRAMWELL *BEd (Hons), MSc, NPOH*

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, our school was inspected by Ofsted on 13 and 14 December 2016. Whilst we are disappointed by the overall outcome of the Ofsted Inspection, we are pleased that the inspection team recognised many strengths of the school's provision and importantly, that the strategic plans for the school are "clearly thought out, sharp and robust and **that leaders demonstrate clear capacity to take the school forward**".

When reading the report, it is important to look for what it suggests the future will bring for our current cohort of students. Throughout the report there is clear identification that the school is now well positioned to make rapid improvement so that our students receive the very best education.

As a new Headteacher, I hoped that I would be given an appropriate amount of time to demonstrate impact, especially as the school had not been inspected in over four years. Alas, this was not the case, but what we have is an inspection report that provides a clear indication that the school has very clear plans and processes in place so that we can move swiftly towards our goal of becoming an outstanding school. As Headteacher, I promise you that I will not rest until the school has achieved this goal.

The inspection team could feel the positive change that is taking place at Westleigh and highlighted:

- The Headteacher has wasted no time in recruiting high-quality senior leaders. He has appointed people who can make the changes needed to Westleigh High School so that all pupils succeed in the future.
- The Headteacher is relentless in his drive to ensure that only the best standards of behaviour are acceptable in the school.
- Leaders have introduced a set of 'non-negotiables' for teaching. These have been devised by staff. Staff now regularly discuss how to improve the quality of teaching so that it positively affects pupils' progress. There is, therefore, **capacity to continue to improve teaching across the school**.
- In Years 7 and 8, pupils are beginning to make stronger progress. The new Headteacher's drive and passion to make sure that all pupils achieve equally well has made the biggest impact so far.

I am grateful to the staff, students, parents and governors for all their hard work in improving the school. The inspectors recognised that the leadership team know the strengths and areas for improvement in the school and have plans in place to ensure we continue to raise standards.

I assure you that we know our school well and are determined to drive up standards. We are committed to improving outcomes for all students and will continue to eradicate any low level disruption that may impact on students' learning. Improving teaching and learning has been my number one focus this year and work has been accelerated since the arrival of the new Deputy Headteacher. This has been supported by Ofsted, who stated, "The new leadership team is acutely aware of the issues that they need to address to raise standards. They have effective actions in place to tackle low standards and poor teaching head on" and "The new Deputy Headteacher has begun to transform teaching across the school.

There is now a comprehensive system of ongoing staff training. Teachers and middle leaders are enthused by the many new initiatives that are available to them. Lead practitioners, coaches, advanced coaches and a 'teacher toolkit' are just some of the new ways leaders are using to improve teaching and learning so that more pupils succeed".

We are confident that there will be a significant improvement in achievement as the school moves forward. Our work is being monitored closely by Governors and external experts to ensure that we are offering students the highest possible standards in teaching and learning.

We are proud of our focus on developing positive working relationships with students and parents as this is testament to our commitment to consistently improve standards. Therefore, it was pleasing that the inspection team recognised that transition arrangements are a key strength of the school, highlighting that:

- Pupils in Year 7 feel well supported and immediately part of the Westleigh family.
- By the end of key stage 4, pupils have the advice and guidance that they need to progress to further education, employment or training.
- There are strong relationships between pupils and staff. Most pupils want to do well for themselves and their teachers. A renewed approach to teaching, learning and assessment provides a strong foundation for pupils to 'Aspire and Achieve Together'.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
- Leaders, including governors, take the safeguarding of their pupils extremely seriously

Although the report highlights many strengths I recognise that we still have much work to do to reassure you as parents, that your child is getting the very best they deserve. To try and get a parents perspective, I spoke to one of our parent governors after she had read the report; she asked me to include her thoughts in this letter.

"I feel that the Ofsted outcome is not reflective of the excellent and positive changes which have been implemented at Westleigh High School over the last 18 months. I believe that the Headteacher Mr Bramwell, along with the Leadership Team and teaching staff are passionate about achieving strong and positive outcomes for the pupils and therefore, as parents, we should be fully supportive of this. It is important that all the positives in the report are taken into account, as there are many"

Deborah Jordan (Parent Governor of a child in year 9)

To help parents understand more clearly everything that we are doing to improve Westleigh High School and to give clarity into different aspects of what the report highlights, I will be holding some consultation events after school on **Tuesday 7 February 2017** and **Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 5.00pm**. Please feel free to join me and I will openly answer any questions that you may have.

A copy of the report is being emailed to all parents this evening. In addition the report is available to view online either through the school website (www.westleigh.wigan.sch.uk) or directly through the Ofsted website (<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>).

If you wish to have a paper copy, these are available from school reception.

Yours faithfully



C BRAMWELL
Headteacher