

27th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

In July this year, Thornaby Academy was inspected for two days by Ofsted. I regret to inform you that as a result of the Inspection, the Academy has been judged as inadequate in all four areas of the Ofsted Inspection Framework. Consequently, it has been placed in Special Measures.

I know that the outcome from this Inspection must come as a huge disappointment, as it does to all the staff at Thornaby Academy and in the Trust, especially in light of the difficulties the Academy has faced recently.

However, the report does take into account the many improvements that have been made since 2016. The safeguarding of your children is now judged as robust and the pastoral care your children receive is judged as effective.

The report comments on the 'green shoots' of improvements in the quality of teaching and learning, but unfortunately these, as well as the improvements in pupil outcomes and pupil attendance, have not been rapid enough.

The report has made the following the recommendations to secure rapid improvement:

- Urgently improve the quality of teaching
- Improve the effectiveness of leadership and management, including governance
- Urgently improve pupils' attendance and reduce persistent absence

In the report, the Inspectors commended the firm commitment leaders have in improving the school. The report also calls on parents and carers to "play their part in supporting the leaders' drive to ensure pupils attend more often." A robust rapid improvement plan is already underway to tackle the issues identified. I am determined and confident that this, along with the commitment and resolve of the staff, the support from you and the support from a funded Department for Education school improvement programme will bring about rapid progress in every measure.

Please be assured that you will be kept regularly updated on the improvements the Academy makes in addressing the issues identified in the report.

I have attached a copy of the full Ofsted Inspection Report in this letter and should you have any questions or comments about the report, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy via email using the address below:

info@thornabyacademy.org.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and carers who completed the Ofsted Parent View surveys. The responses were positive and demonstrate your commitment to support the Academy in moving forward.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Butcher
Principal