

LEARNING IS OUR BUSINESS

21st November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted Inspection Report

You will find enclosed with this letter a copy of the Ofsted report based on the inspection which took place at Patchway Community College on 5-6 October 2016. The inspection team felt that the school requires Special Measures, which is obviously a huge blow to all associated with the school as there had been significant progress last academic year, resulting in our best outcomes at GCSE (58% English and maths, and value-added in line with national) and at post 16. However, the starting point for the inspection team was the school's performance over the last three years. Although there is recognition of the continued excellence in English at both GCSE and A level, the progress made in maths GCSE (61% A*-C) and strong outcomes for students with additional learning needs, the conclusion is that improvements are not yet sustained and that aspects of the curriculum such as the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of our young people are not yet embedded.

We hope that you will be able to read the inspection report in the context of changes which were already underway in school under the leadership of the interim headteacher and which have progressed further with the appointment of a permanent headteacher and the close involvement of the Olympus Academy Trust. These developments are acknowledged as positive in the inspection report but there had been insufficient time to demonstrate significant impact at the time of inspection. However, there has been a genuine change in school since the start of this academic year with the implementation of new expectations around behaviour, attendance and punctuality, and a culture of zero tolerance; we have already started on our new beginning and the inspection report gives further impetus to drive forward improvement. We hope that we can count on your continued loyalty and support as we work in partnership with you to make the transition from the old ways of working to the new era. There is an atmosphere of good order and calm in school and we need to build on this foundation to raise aspirations and self-belief: we are ambitious for all of our students in Patchway and want them to excel.

As a consequence of being placed in Special Measures, the school's governing body has been discussing ways forward to secure rapid improvement and a positive future for the school with the Olympus Academy Trust and the Regional Schools Commissioner so we would like to invite you to join us to hear about our proposals and about how we plan to address the key issues arising from the inspection **next Monday 28 November, at 6.00 pm** in the main hall in school.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

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Karen Cornick Associate Headteacher

Paul Duvall Chair of Governors

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