

Our Ref: BSN/KON

3 December 2014

ALL PARENTS

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: OFSTED UPDATE

As I am sure you know the school had another visit from OFSTED on 18 and 19 November 2014. The visit was to monitor the school's progress in response to being put in Special Measures in June 2013. However, during the first day, the Lead Inspector decided that this was no longer appropriate and that it should be converted into a full inspection. As a result, I am pleased to be able to inform you that the school is no longer subject to Special Measures.

A copy of the inspection report is enclosed. It gives a balanced and very fair assessment of where we are as a school at the moment. There are many positive comments and also areas that require more work.

The highlights include comments that:

- Dormston is a rapidly improving school;
- teaching is improving quickly;
- there are many examples of excellent marking;
- students are now making quicker progress in their learning;
- behaviour is good;
- leadership is good;
- attendance has improved
- students believe that they are safe and well cared for;
- Governors know the school very well.

Areas for further improvement include:

- teaching needs to remain consistently at the same level as it is now so that it can be considered good over time;
- a legacy of underachievement means that progress is not yet consistently good;
- all teachers need to ensure that marking helps pupils make progress;
- more opportunities need to be given to pupils to complete extended writing.

The Special Measures process typically takes 2 years and it is therefore pleasing that the Inspection Team recognised the progress the school has made in a shorter timescale. It means that we can now move on to the next stage of our plan to ensure that our pupils receive the very best education possible.

It is worth noting that where many schools locally and nationally have seen standards falling over the last year our trajectory is very much in the opposite direction. However, the report accurately

articulates that there is still more to do. We will not take our foot off the gas, my staff and I will look to work smarter to boost the life chances of every one of our pupils.

I will write to you again before the Christmas holidays to review the year and tell you about our plans for 2015.

As always thank you for your continuing support. Please do not be in any doubt that this is the first step along the way to what we will make our school.

Yours sincerely

Ben Stitchman
Head Teacher