

20 February 2018

Dear parent/carer

We hope you and your family had an enjoyable break over the half-term holiday. We wanted to write at our earliest opportunity about the recent Ofsted report which has just been published. Obviously, we are disappointed with the grading of Inadequate, and we are clear about the improvements that need to be made at Felixstowe Academy.

The report from Ofsted did highlight a number of areas of progress, notably: teaching and learning improving; good sixth-form provision; and that underperformance is being challenged robustly. The report also comments on how most pupils work hard, respect our teachers and take their learning seriously.

These are all positive signs, but our focus now is on how we can improve the school at pace. Steps that have already been taken and are planned, include:

- **New links established with Tendring AET Academy** – one of our neighbouring schools, Tendring is rated by Ofsted as “Good”. We have formalised links between the two academies, including a programme of support to teachers at Felixstowe Academy who need to improve their practice. As a result, lesson plans are being shared across schools, and face to face support and mentoring is now taking place.
- AET’s **central curriculum team** is working intensively with the academy to accelerate improvements in teaching and achievement across the core subjects.
- An **extended day for Year 11s in core subjects** – introduced in January this will help ensure that any gaps in understanding are addressed now, well ahead of the formal examination period beginning. The most recent Mock Exams, indicate this is already having an impact and we anticipate a marked improvement in our results this summer.
- **Termly reviews of the academy’s progress** - led by the new Chair of Governors, considering progress against the areas we need to improve on. This mirrors the move across all of our academies to introducing a more professional approach to education governance.

We also wanted to share with you that the academy hosted a monitoring visit from education advisors from the Department of Education (DfE) in December. They were very positive about the academy, the Principal and AET’s work to bring about rapid improvement, and noted their confidence in our plan of action to bring about the improvements needed.

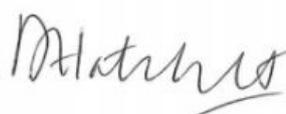
We hope that these measures, together with the visit from the DfE, provide you with the reassurance that we are absolutely committed to turning the academy around, so that Felixstowe provides education that your children deserve. We will receive another monitoring visit from Ofsted before the end of the academic year, and we expect that report to note that we are taking effective action, with a view to the academy then being judged as "Good", by the end of summer term 2019.

As part of the new leadership team – as the new Chair of Governors and the new Director of Secondary - we would like to stress in particular our own personal commitment to supporting Felixstowe Academy through this next phase of development. We look forward to welcoming you to our parents evening on Wednesday evening at the Academy to discuss the Ofsted report and next steps.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' with a stylized flourish.

John King
Chair of Governors
Felixstowe Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Hatchett'.

David Hatchett
Director of Secondary Schools
Academies Enterprise Trust