

09 February 2018

Dear parents / carers

Ofsted's report of its recent inspection of Felixstowe Academy is enclosed with this letter.

The report makes quite a number of positive statements about the school, including:

- Teaching and Learning is improving;
- Our Sixth Form provision is good;
- Underperformance is robustly challenged.
- Many pupils work hard, respect their teachers and take their learning seriously. They are friendly and courteous and are excellent ambassadors for the school

We are disappointed that in spite of these positive statements, Ofsted found that over time, the Academy has not made rapid enough progress, and has rated the school as 'Inadequate'. Both I and AET feel this judgement does not take full account of the many changes that have been put in place over the past year, and which are beginning to drive real improvement at the Academy. Although some of these actions are mentioned in Ofsted's report, and are already having an impact, their full effect will need some time to build. Since Ofsted visited us, further green shoots are apparent, with our Year 11 mock exams showing a significant rise in progress and attainment, suggesting our results this summer will show a considerable improvement on 2017.

Furthermore, the Academy has already taken significant action particularly around safeguarding, which is always one of our chief priorities. Indeed the latest, much wider survey showed a positive picture, with 88% of students aware of what they need to do if they believe someone is being bullied, and in a recent parent survey 91% of parents felt that their child is safe at the Academy, 82% felt that bullying is dealt with effectively and 91% would recommend the Academy.

However, I want to assure you that we do of course accept that Felixstowe Academy still has a long way to go. We have taken on board all of Ofsted's findings and have developed a rigorous action plan to address the issues they highlight. We fully accept that over time, Felixstowe Academy has not made sufficient progress, and we will be redoubling our efforts to bring about continued improvements as we work to create an Academy of which the students, their families and the whole community can be proud.

I would like to invite you to a meeting at the Academy on **Wednesday 21 February at 5.00pm** where members of the Senior Leadership of the Academy will be happy to outline what we have been doing to address each of the areas for improvement identified in the report. We will also be very happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.



Yours sincerely
Mr John King OBE

Chair of the Governing Board