

5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear parents and families,

Welcome back to a new half-term! I have much news to share with you, and it already feels like the half-term break was a long-time ago!

Firstly, as you probably know, we had a visit from a team of Ofsted inspectors before the half-term break. I am delighted to be able to share now that this inspection went very well, and KLA has, as a result been **removed from 'Special Measures'**. We are now judged to be a **'Requires Improvement'** school overall, and both leadership and behaviour at the school are now judged to be **'Good'**.

I am very grateful to our brilliant staff and amazing students, who for the two days of the inspection, as indeed they do every day, worked so hard. I am very proud of the school we have managed to create over the past couple of years, and the inspection report makes reference to how well-behaved our students are, how impressive our Student Commissioners are and to the happy, family ethos and culture we have here at KLA. The report is attached in full, to allow you to see the detail of the findings. I am also incredibly grateful to our parents and wider local community who have been so very supportive of the school during a very difficult time; your support has enabled us to make this fast progress – thank you!

However, we are in no way complacent about the progress we have made – there remains much to do to continue to improve our school and to make it the excellent place of study our students deserve. We still have some work to do on improving the consistency of our teaching yet further and to improve exam outcomes for a few subjects. Although English, Maths and Science all achieved 'best-ever' results last year, we still have a little gap to overcome to meet the national average, which we hope to do next year. This work is already being undertaken – as Year 11 students will confirm, as they are halfway through their first set of mock exams at the moment!

As we continue to work to improve your school, we intend to make a few changes to the way we sanction students for disrupting lessons so much that they need to be removed to reflection. Although this is not something that the vast majority of our pupils ever experience, (overall referrals to the reflection room are around 0.05% of all teaching sessions delivered), it is undeniably the case that some students unfortunately are referred far too often and it is clear that our current punishment for disrupting the learning of their classmates in this way is not always being effective.

To address this we intend to introduce a 'community service' approach from this half-term. Students who disrupt learning sufficiently to warrant being removed from their lesson will be expected to complete a community service sanction the following day – this could be supporting staff to collect litter, canteen duty or some other supportive task. This is designed to be in equal measure a deterrent as well as a chance for a contribution to our school community. All equipment for this will be provided and students will be supervised in this task. If you have any questions at all about this initiative, please contact Mr Bugg, Vice-Principal, and he will be delighted to talk them through with you.

As always, we want to work in the closest possible partnership with parents and families; your views and suggestions are always important to us. If you have any concerns, queries, criticisms or helpful ideas please do get in touch. We believe KLA children are very special, and we are all excited about the next phase of our improvement journey.

With grateful thanks and best wishes,



Alan Fletcher