



CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

My Ref: IT/CAG/217

Your Ref:

Date:

25 February 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

At the start of this busy half term I thought it appropriate to write to thank you for your continued support of our school as we move forward towards our vision of a vibrant and ambitious learning community, with a relentless focus on the highest standards of academic achievement, personal development and equality of opportunity.

Last half term was another busy but successful half term, which included trips: New Vic at Newcastle to see Robin Hood and Marian; Blacksmith Visit to Stoke-on-Trent; Young Chef competition, external successes against local schools including young musician, public speaking, sporting and cooking and even a TV debut on Central News for some of our students. We believe that all of these additional activities enrich the education and opportunities that we offer students. They also enable us to develop the relationships between students, and between students and staff, which supports the mutual respect and team agenda that permeates throughout our school. However, we must remember our core business of learning, education and ultimately the achievement of our students.

As you are also aware we also had an Ofsted inspection. I would urge all parents to read the full report. Inspectors, based on the historical data, judge that the school still requires improvement, but made explicit reference throughout the report to the effective work and actions now being undertaken by the new Leadership Team. One impressive area of the inspection was the way all stakeholders (students, parents and staff) pulled together to support each other. Our students remained focused on improving their collective best, Team CCHS, and their individual best and demonstrated this new mindset to inspectors in all they did and said. All staff are disappointed with the judgements but encouraged that the report identifies how far we have come in our journey in a relatively short time. We entered this profession to make a difference to the lives of our students and this report has acknowledged we are doing the right things in all areas of the school.

There is a lot to be proud of within the report which positively reflects all that we have done to improve the life opportunities of our students, below are some key extracts from the report:

- A restructure of the leadership team has secured stronger and more effective leadership since September 2015. Leaders' roles and responsibilities are well defined. The impact of these leaders is quickly becoming evident in the pace at which improvements are being implemented, the tangible and widely recognised improvements to pupils' behaviour and the growing signs of better teaching that are accelerating pupils' progress. This is demonstrating that current leaders have the necessary skills and abilities to bring about further improvements.
- There are many important strengths of teaching. High quality relationships between teachers and pupils foster good attitudes to learning and set a positive climate that helps pupils to learn well. This can result in pupils' engaging keenly with tasks and activities.
- The Academy's records show that when incidents of bullying do occur, these are dealt with swiftly and effectively. The majority of these are one-off cases. Pupils also say that bullying has reduced significantly in the Academy. They say they feel safe. The views of staff and parents confirm this.
- Staff and pupils express positive views about the impact of new systems to manage pupils' behaviour. This 'back to basics' approach has raised expectations of pupils' behaviour. Pupils say that they have a clear understanding of what constitutes acceptable behaviour during lessons and that teachers reinforce these boundaries consistently. Although pupils are clear about the consequences of poor behaviour, they also recognise that good behaviour and good progress is

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INTEGRITY

TEAMWORK

RESPONSIBILITY

EXCELLENCE

RESILIENCE

rewarded and celebrated. Pupils value the rewards visits they earn. Staff and pupils are unanimous that behaviour has improved considerably in the Academy this academic year.

- The robust actions current leaders have taken to secure better outcomes for pupils and improvements in the quality of teaching are accelerating the progress of pupils currently in the Academy. Achievement in mathematics is gathering momentum. The mathematics curriculum now has a stronger focus on helping pupils to secure their understanding of key mathematical concepts. Small group sizes and targeted teaching are helping lower-ability pupils to address the deficits in their basic skills. Achievement in English has recovered well from a dip last year and the progress most groups of pupils are making is good.
- The outcomes of learners in the Sixth Form are good and improving. The progress and attainment of learners in their AS level examination results has risen consistently. Learners attain average standards, which from their starting points means that the progress they make during Year 12 is well above average. Learners who study vocational qualifications also make progress that is significantly above that of other learners nationally.

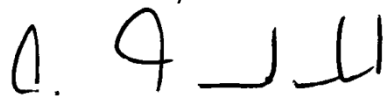
We all remain deeply committed to providing a learning environment where all members of the school community, students, staff and parents, talk of 'our' achievement and everyone is focused on improving both our collective best and individual best. Students are aware of their potential and that their achievement is without limit if they combine effort, hard work and dedication to being the best in everything they do. The full report can be found on our website as soon as it is published, we will send a text to confirm when it is available.

This half term we will continue our journey and we will be focusing on a number of areas. Please continue to support your child and the school by ensuring they arrive at school properly equipped, in the correct uniform, on time and with the correct attitude to learning so that we can maximise learning and teaching time. Furthermore, from Monday 29 February any student that deliberately fails to attend their C3 (one hour) after school detention will be placed in a Headteacher's detention until 5pm on the following day. Should the child fail to attend this detention, they will remain in isolation until parents have been into school to discuss the way forward. We are exceptionally pleased that we have improved our attendance figures but we need to improve punctuality of the small minority of students who arrive late to school. Starting from Monday 29 February, any child arriving late to school on three and any subsequent lates will be issued with a same day one hour detention.

We will also continue our focus on rewarding those students who regularly attend school with the correct uniform, properly equipped and the right attitude to learning. Year 8 and their parents will be fully prepared on all of their options as they decide which subjects to study in Years 9-11, likewise Years 11 and 13 will be supported to determine the next stage of their educational career. We are entering the business end of the academic year with students in all Years sitting exams but those in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 sitting public exams which will determine their futures. Now is the time for our young people to take control of their destiny, to believe in themselves, to be prepared and not leave their success to chance, to take their opportunities and be proud of their achievements.

I hope that you are pleased with the progress that your child and the school are making. If you have any concerns please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Turnbull'.

Mr I Turnbull
Headteacher