




Laurence Jackson School

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 @LJ_School



Headteacher: Catherine Jukes, BA (Hons), NPQH

10 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, on 26 and 27 February 2019, Ofsted inspected Laurence Jackson School. The inspection was a 'Section 5' inspection with 5 inspectors in school on Day 1 and 4 on Day 2.

When you read the report, which is available on our website, you will see that it identifies some clear strengths, particularly with regard to safeguarding and personal development and behaviour with inspectors identifying that 'Pupils are courteous, helpful, polite and respectful to staff and visitors' and that 'Leaders have created an environment that is inclusive, welcoming and supportive'. However, overall the report identifies that in many respects Laurence Jackson School is currently an inadequate school that must rapidly improve the quality of educational provision that it provides for your children.

As a parent first and foremost, I understand that this overall judgement of the inspection will give you initial cause for concern, I urge you to take reassurance from the fact that the inspection team were clear that we are now making the right changes to improve the school. In September, when I joined Laurence Jackson School, I talked to the staff about the school improvement journey that we need to take to ensure that we are a good school in every respect, improving the life chances of every student we serve. I also talked about my utter determination and confidence that the school had the capacity to improve; I remain determined and confident that this is the case, not least because the actions that have been in place since September are recognised in the report as the right actions to support the improvements necessary.

You will also find a frequently asked questions document on the website that sets out more information about the Ofsted report as well as information about what will happen next to the school in terms of becoming an academy because following this judgement this will now be the case.

It is undoubtedly the case that there is more to do and that this must be done rapidly and effectively. To this end an action plan to support this progress is underway and a *Rapid Improvement Board (RIB)*, which is made up of some existing members of the Governing Body, together with representatives from the Local Authority and external consultants who have been invited by the Local Authority to support the school, has been put in place. The role of the Rapid Improvement Board is to hold staff in school to account for the rapid progress that needs to be made to improve the school. In addition, the action plan will be robustly reviewed by Ofsted and monitored by the Local Authority in the short term and by the Multi Academy Trust that the school joins in the longer term. As parents and carers, I'd like to reassure you that you will be kept fully up to date about the progress we make to address the areas of improvement that have been identified and the future of the school in terms of academisation. In order that you can raise your questions and concerns with the Rapid Improvement Board directly a *Parent Champion* has been identified to facilitate this communication. Paul Worthy is a member of the RIB, a serving co-opted governor and a parent of a student at Laurence Jackson School. To raise issues or concerns with him please use the following email address parentchampion@laurencejackson.org.



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I am sure that many of you will quite rightly have questions once you have had chance to read and reflect on the full report. To help answer these questions and give them the time and due consideration they deserve there will be a parental meeting in the main school hall on Wednesday 15 May at 6pm where the Chair of Governors, Interim Chief Education Officer for Redcar and Cleveland and I will present further information regarding the Ofsted report, actions taking place to secure rapid improvement and the academisation process. If you have specific questions you wish to raise in that meeting it would be helpful if you would share them via the Parent Champion email above in advance of the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Catherine L Jukes
Headteacher



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