



EASINGWOLD SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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Dear Parent/Carer

Ofsted inspected Easingwold School on 15th and 16th September 2016. Their final report is now attached to this letter and can also be accessed via our own website: <http://www.easingwold.n-yorks.sch.uk>. It will also be available on the Ofsted website after half-term.

As many of you are aware, in 2012 and 2014 the school was judged by Ofsted as 'requires improvement'. Despite progress in a number of areas, unfortunately Ofsted has concluded the school has not improved at the required pace and has therefore rated the school as 'inadequate' and placed the school into special measures.

On behalf of everyone who works at the school and the local authority, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), we would like to express our disappointment at the position the school now finds itself in and we can assure you we will continue to work tirelessly to improve this situation rapidly such that all students receive the education they deserve. Hard work alone is not enough and we also need to understand why the school has not improved and what actions are required to accelerate progress.

To help you understand more, we have arranged two meetings in the main school hall on Tuesday 1st November; one at 5.00pm and one at 7.00pm and we urge you to attend one of these as we will be explaining how we will secure this rapid improvement. There will be opportunities to discuss the report and to ask any questions to the school leadership, governors and senior members from NYCC. After the meetings we will publish a summary of the questions and answers and throughout this whole process you will be regularly updated and we will also give you the opportunity to be engaged, for example via the Parent Council.

One of the implications of being placed into special measures is that Easingwold School will now become an academy which is a requirement for all schools in our circumstances. NYCC is working with the Department for Education around possible sponsor schools with a view to becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust. This will provide additional capacity for improvement, through the ability to share resources, training and expertise.

The school has already begun to address many of the concerns raised. However, the seriousness of the current situation has necessitated more fundamental changes which we can now share with you:

- For the period until we become an academy, a new Executive Headteacher, Mr RA Pritchard has been appointed with immediate effect to work with the senior leadership of the school. Mr Pritchard is currently the Headteacher at St John Fisher School in Harrogate, rated as an outstanding school. This is his third successful headship and he has also worked for Ofsted as a Senior Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) and a National Leader of Education. Mr Pritchard will be sharing his time between Easingwold and St John Fisher but he is bringing with him additional resource to help improve Easingwold School's leadership and management.

Mr Pritchard has an outstanding reputation and we are delighted he is joining us. St John Fisher is a National Support School and designated teaching school and is also a founding member of Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance which trains and develops teachers in the region. Easingwold School recently became a member of this Alliance.

- In partnership with NYCC, the school is preparing a detailed statement of action which will address the specific issues raised by Ofsted. Ofsted are required to approve it. The action plan will contain priorities and a series of actions which will deliver rapid improvement. We will share a summary of these with you at the forthcoming meeting and we will provide regular updates to give evidence of progress.
- The Governing Body has elected me as chair to navigate us through this improvement process and two new governors, with a strong educational background will soon be appointed to strengthen governors' impact. An external review of governance will also be undertaken

It is vital for the school to improve rapidly and we will need the support of everyone; our pupils, teachers, support staff, parents/carers and governors. We are confident these new leadership arrangements will result in rapid improvement and we hope you can attend one of the meetings on 1st November where you will have the opportunity of meeting Mr Pritchard.

Yours sincerely

Neil Hawkins
Chair of Governors