



# EASINGWOLD SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

York Road, Easingwold, York, North Yorkshire, YO61 3EF

T: 01347 821451 F: 01347 823301

[www.easingwold.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.easingwold.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Interim Executive Headteacher: Mr R A Pritchard

Interim Headteacher: Mr P Brockwell



21 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As promised, I am writing to give you an update on what has been happening with our academy arrangements, how we are responding to the issues raised by Ofsted and what the Governing Board has been doing.

You will recall that a number of surveys of the school buildings were to be conducted to determine what is required to make the school safe and fit for purpose and to understand the financial implications for all parties concerned in the future running of the school. These have now been completed and Mr Brockwell, my vice-Chair Jon Wright and myself will be attending a meeting with NYCC, Outwood Grange Academy Trust (OGAT) and the Department of Education/Regional School Commissioner on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March to review the findings and we hope to finally determine if OGAT will/will not sponsor the School. Both before and during this meeting, I can assure you that we will be demanding this is finally resolved and I promise to send you an update as soon as possible afterwards.

As I have said previously and will continue to say, Mr Brockwell, Mr Pritchard, all of the staff and the students continue to work tirelessly improving the School. There are a number of issues that cannot be resolved and decisions that cannot be made whilst we await news of OGAT's decision to sponsor us and we should not underestimate how this uncertainty is impacting everyone involved, but I am incredibly proud of the commitment and dedication everyone is showing and almost without exception everyone I speak to or hear from confirms the School getting back on track.

You will no doubt be aware from recent media coverage the huge issue around the levels of school funding. Unfortunately, Easingwold is not immune from this and the situation here is compounded by a reduction in student numbers due to the impact of the Ofsted judgement and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding OGAT. It is one of the statutory duties of the Governing Board to ensure the School operates within its means and as a consequence of this, reluctantly we have just commenced a significant re-structuring of the teaching and non teaching staff. Whilst it is of no comfort to anyone impacted by this, we are clearly not alone across the county or indeed the country. This is another layer of ongoing uncertainty and frustration at the School and I would ask that you all help wherever possible by ensuring your children continue to come to School with a positive attitude to learning.

Mr Brockwell continues to provide regular updates on progress and developments in the school and I would like to use this opportunity to share what the governors have been doing.

The governors continue to meet at least monthly and in addition we have established a separate School Improvement Group, chaired by Steve Smith to focus exclusively on teaching and learning and ensure the issues raised by Ofsted are being addressed. The first session was a review of the sixth form and the next will look at disadvantaged students and the effectiveness of the additional funding we receive to support these children which as you are aware was one of the major concerns raised by Ofsted.

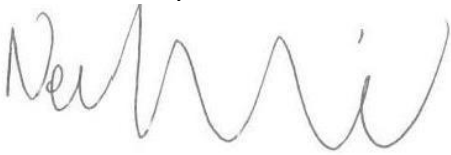
The governors held a training day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March where we also joined by our local MP, Kevin Hollinrake, Mr Pritchard and Mr Brockwell and most of the senior leadership team and I would like to thank everyone for giving up some of their weekend to help the governors. We covered a number of areas including Ofsted, what makes an outstanding teacher, pupil premium funding, curriculum/timetabling and our Special Educational Needs provision. We finished with a discussion amongst the governors on how can we more effective and we also discussed our vision for the school and left with a reinforced common sense of purpose and drive.

A number of people say being a governor is a thankless task but I would like to take this opportunity of publically thanking all of the governors for their commitment and desire in helping get the school back on track. In particular, we should all be really grateful for the help Hugh Porter and Steve Smith have given. They were appointed by NYCC to bring their educational experience to the school, both being retired head teachers and they have given up a huge amount of their own time to help us. Also, our three new parent governors, Elaine, Chris and Chris are already making a massive contribution and I am delighted you elected them.

I would like to end by again thank everyone for their ongoing commitment to improving the School and good luck to all the students preparing for their exams and the support you as their parents are giving them.

This is a great school on a journey to outstanding.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Neil Hawkins', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Neil Hawkins**  
**Chair of Governors**