

July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Please find attached a copy of our recent Ofsted Inspection that was undertaken during 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The report was published on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020, the delays were due to Covid-19, factual accuracy checks and our challenge of the judgements.

During the inspection we received some really positive feedback in several areas of the school, with regards to quality of education and personal development. This reflects the hard work and dedication that has been put into Hanson school over the past few years and we are really proud of this achievement. However, disappointingly the judgements are not truly reflected in the narrative - especially in terms of the Leadership and Management.

I would seek to reassure all of our community that whilst the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection was not what any of us had hoped it would be, your child continues to receive the high levels of education and support at Hanson. This is a view not only held by me as Headteacher but also by our staff and students. During our Inspection, many of our students were spoken to by Ofsted Inspectors and their overwhelming view was that they "...feel safe and happy at Hanson", that "...bullying is not common" and that "most pupils behave well and have positive attitudes in lessons".

We have already started working with the Governing Body, Local Authority and Key Leaders to develop our Ofsted Response Plan and we will endeavour to share it with you in due course.

Jon Hairsine, Chair of Governors, has asked me to share the following:

Being a former pupil, I was delighted to join the Governing Board of Hanson at the start of this academic year as part of a process, instigated by the Local Authority, to strengthen governance, and enhance support for the school, following three failed academy conversion projects over the last 9 years. As a 'National Leader of Governance', who has had the opportunity to play a part in leading the significant improvement of a number of schools across the region over the last nine years, I believe I have learned to recognise when a school has, and has not, got the capacity to improve at a significant pace so that it can fully meet the expectations of the community it serves.

The recent judgement seems to me more of a reflection of the troubled recent history of the school, and does not accurately reflect the quality of the current school leadership team and governing board. We as new leaders are dedicated to the children who attend the school and want to make sure we give them the best start in life. Notwithstanding the very disappointing outcome of the Ofsted inspection, and, in particular, the judgement in relation to Leadership and Management, I remain of the view that the

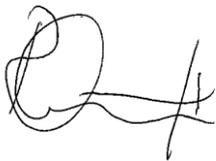
school is now well led, and that it is receiving the necessary level of support from the Local Authority and high performing local schools. This view is shared by the Board as a whole.

I have great respect for the work that Ofsted inspectors do, and I have generally found the content of their inspection reports to be fair and helpful. However, in this instance, I strongly disagree with their assessment of the quality of Leadership and Management. This, in my view, seems more a reflection of the troubled recent history of the school, and does not provide a fair portrayal of the quality of the current school leadership team and governing board, or of the highly engaged and expert input from the Local Authority. I recognise that many parents are likely to have read the Ofsted report with concern. If what I, and the Local Authority, have said in response to the report does not provide sufficient reassurance, I would urge you to raise your concerns with the school who will, I am confident, be able to provide you with a reassuring picture of a school that is fast improving so as to better meet the needs of all the young people it serves.

If you have any questions relating to the report or require a paper copy of the report please do not hesitate to contact me [headteacher@hansonacademy.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@hansonacademy.org.uk)

Please be assured, that we will leave no stone unturned in our determination to rapidly improve this outcome and return Hanson to a good school; a status which is of such great importance to us, our students, our families and our wider community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Woods', written in a cursive style.

Richard Woods  
Headteacher