

November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, our school was inspected by a team of OFSTED inspectors on the 18th & 19th of October this year.

We were pleased that the inspectors found many positives in many areas, and acknowledged the rapid and significant improvement we have made during the last 12 months. Although the overall outcome judged us to 'require improvement' there were many good aspects contained within the report.

Behaviour was identified as a strength of the school, with inspectors finding students polite and well behaved, both in and out of lessons. As we have always said; our students are a credit to us all and we continue to be immensely proud of them. Inspectors also stated that our personal development, care and guidance is strong; preparing students well for life after school. As a result, the percentage of students going onto successful careers or further education is well above the national average.

Following my appointment last year the Governors and senior leaders set out a clear plan for improvement and OFSTED have acknowledged we are well on the way to becoming a good school. The report recognises that the school continues to improve rapidly because of the strength and capacity of the new leadership.

Last year we saw a 14% increase in the number of students gaining A*-C in English and Maths, up from 50% in 2015 to 64% in 2016 (this is above the national average). Despite significant improvements in many areas, where we surpassed national averages in English, ICT, PE and Drama, and equaled them in Maths and Business, the inspectors felt results in some other subjects weren't yet strong enough. This year, we are already doing the things we need to do to ensure that we continue to improve teaching.



Having spoken to many parents in the past year, we know you understand the need for the changes the school has undergone in the past 12 months and appreciate your support. There has been an aspect of short term pain for long term gain. Your views are very important to us and we are hosting a Family Forum on 1st November between 5.30-6.30 pm. We welcome everyone along to discuss our plans for the next 12 months and any feedback you provide. Equally, you are welcome to contact us directly, as we are more than happy to speak to parents on an individual basis.

Finally, we can assure all parents and carers that all the staff and governors of Belmont Community School are clear about what we need to do next and we are determined to ensure the school goes from strength to strength. We are obviously disappointed about the headline judgement because here at Belmont we want the best for all our students and know we have the potential to be good and even outstanding. We believe that Belmont is a **good** school at heart. However this has only served to strengthen our resolve in tackling the issues and improving consistency in the areas identified in the report. We look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Paul Marsden
Headteacher

Harriet Pritchard
Chair of Governors