

WFD/js/parlets/0809/Ofsted report jan

26 January 2009

Dear Parents and carers

Ofsted Report

As you will be aware the school recently underwent an inspection by Ofsted and we are writing to inform you of their findings. Regrettably we have to inform you that the Inspection team have concluded that, because academic standards across the school have fallen in recent years, it has been necessary to place the school in Special Measures.

Whilst the Inspector's decision obviously gives cause for concern we would like to reassure you that all of the issues outlined in the report had already been identified by the new Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team. Indeed the report acknowledges the progress that has been made since September.

"Many students, staff and parents speak positively about the recent improvements in the school and praise the acting head teacher and his senior team for beginning to bring about the necessary changes."

Since the beginning of the year the new team have been working intensively on the key issues, with the support of the local authority and significant progress has already been made. However, much remains to be done and over the next 12 to 24 months considerable additional support, expertise and resources will be provided by the local authority, partner schools and Ofsted to secure the necessary improvements. Plans were indeed already in place to address the key issues identified in the report at the time of the inspection and the lead inspector agreed with the approach detailed in these plans.

Over the next two years Ofsted inspectors will be returning to Denefield School on a regular basis to monitor our progress. Following each of these visits parents will receive further reports from our attached inspector which will inform you as to the progress we have made.

Accompanying this letter you will find a copy of the inspection report which will be published on the Ofsted website tomorrow. The report provides an uncompromising assessment of where the school currently finds itself and we feel sure that having read the report some of you may wish to have the opportunity to meet with senior staff and governors. We would therefore like to invite you to join us at the school at **6.30 pm** on **Tuesday 3 February** where you will be provided with further information and have an opportunity to ask questions. In the meantime, we would be happy to discuss both the findings of the report and our improvement plans with any one of you personally by appointment. Alternatively you may wish to send any questions you may have to us via myvoice@denefield.org.uk.

You will also find enclosed a copy of a letter from the lead inspector which explains to the students the findings of the inspection. We would be grateful if you could share and discuss the contents of this letter with your children.

We very much value and need the support of all our parents through what will undoubtedly be a challenging period of significant change for the school. Indeed it has been the support shown by so many of you which has helped us to achieve so much already this year.

Yours sincerely

Mr Whiteford
Headteacher

Mrs J Pickett
Chair of Governors