



**Sandye Place Academy**  
*Achievement Through Partnership*

19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will no doubt be aware Sandye Place Academy was visited by Ofsted for a two day visit in December 2017. We have been extremely frustrated by a delay in receiving the report following this visit, but finally are now in a position to share this with you, having received it today at 3pm.

It is with heavy hearts that we have to inform you that Sandye Place Academy has been placed in Special Measures by Ofsted. This was a hard judgment to take given that we know how much progress the children make at the school but we must accept that for the last three years our SATs results have not been up to standard and for this there are no excuses.

It has been a challenging few years with the turbulence and uncertainty for schools in Sandy and we have been guilty of taking our eye off the ball; in focusing on working to secure a future for our school we have not been as challenging or focused on the outcomes for pupils as we should have been.

You will have noticed a number of changes in the Academy this academic year, but particularly since January. All of these changes have been made with a sole purpose for improving the outcomes for our pupils.

As soon as this academic year commenced, and following a second consecutive year of SATs results which were well below national average, a number of changes were looked at in the Autumn term. These included:

- Bringing the Principal back to Sandye Place Academy full time as soon as possible after 18 months working as an Executive Headteacher to support Maple Tree Lower School.
- Reviewing the leadership structure at the Academy.
- Organising an external review of our Pupil Premium funding.

Since the Ofsted inspection in December we have taken further, swift action including:

- Removing the old School Improvement Partner (SIP) - an external advisor that all schools have to support and challenge to ensure that the school is performing as expected - and bringing in a new, highly experienced one
- Setting up a Target Intervention Board (TIB) chaired by the new SIP and made up of the 3 Executive Governors into which the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) directly report monthly. The purpose of the TIB is to have an intense focus on raising standards in the core subjects.
- Implementing curriculum changes and building a timetable to get the best out of our teachers.
- Arranging for a review of governance to be conducted including bringing in additional training for our governing body

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Principal: Mrs Kim McCamley B.Ed (Hons), NPQH

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We were pleased to see that in their report Ofsted recognised the positive culture and ethos of the school and would like to reassure parents that alongside all of these changes we will be working hard to ensure that we don't lose the heart of the Academy.

Whilst Ofsted was critical of pupil behaviour in a couple of lessons during the inspection, we also wanted to take this opportunity to tell you that both Governors and Senior Leaders are extremely proud of the behaviour of our pupils. The inspection happened in the last week before Christmas and following 3 days in which pupils had been kept inside at break and lunch due to adverse weather conditions, this no doubt contributed to this finding. We have made great strides with improving our behaviour in recent years and your children are a credit to you, their school and their community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to support our school and your child's education. With your continued support and the dedication of the entire Sandye Place staff we are confident that we can turn this around and secure the best possible outcomes for our pupils by the end of the year.

Yours faithfully

**Hannah Ranson, Jo Stephens and Michael Greener**  
**Members of the Sandye Place Academy Trust and the Executive Governors on the TIB**

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