

School Site: Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1ED. Phone: 01609 772888 Fax: 01609 770265

College Site: Grammar School Lane, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1DD. Phone: 01609 773340 Fax: 01609 770265

Executive Principal: Keith Prytherch

Associate Principal: John Kelly

12th March 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

We wish to update you on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Northallerton School and Sixth Form College. A copy of the final inspection report is available on the home page of our website www.northallertonschool.org.uk.

As I'm sure you are all aware, the school has been through a period of turbulence and a number of you have expressed concerns about standards of behaviour and teaching and learning in the school.

As you also know, since the end of last year, North Yorkshire County Council has put in place an urgent recovery plan and completely overhauled the leadership and governance of the school to bring about rapid improvement and to make the school safe.

In a recent inspection of the school Ofsted acknowledged that the school's new leadership team had acted quickly and "done well" to identify where improvement in teaching, learning and assessment was needed.

However, as the leadership team had only been in place for two weeks when the inspectors arrived, the improvements we had begun as a matter of urgency were not embedded enough to prevent the school from going into special measures and being judged inadequate.

Although this is a great disappointment to all of us, it was not unexpected. Indeed since the inspectors' visit, the school's new leadership team – myself, the associate headteacher John Kelly, two associate senior leaders and our new interim chair of governors Paul Bartlett - have pressed ahead to bring about wholesale change. We have swiftly addressed the priorities of improving behaviour and attendance, tackling bullying, listening to your concerns and the concerns of our students and making the school safe.

With the support of the county council we are also pushing forward with fundamental improvements in teaching and learning so that lessons are calmer and engaging. We have brought in a new behaviour and consequences system and we are creating better consistency in classrooms.

The county council intends to strengthen the school's management further with an interim executive board to replace the governing body with more frequent board meetings, clear guidance and accountability.

The Government has directed that every school in special measures must become an academy. The county council has therefore been working with the Regional Schools Commissioner in charge of academies to seek a potential strong local sponsor for Northallerton School.

The Ofsted report has highlighted many failings in the school over the time since their previous inspection three years ago. The recent incident involving arrests has also been the cause of significant disruption to the whole school community. We ask that people avoid commenting on social media regarding the forthcoming



trial, to prevent prejudicing the forthcoming court proceedings, as there are reporting restrictions in place in relation to the case covering any educational establishment, as well as names and addresses of those involved. We're grateful for your co-operation and support in this matter.

However, despite these issues, I hope you will be reassured by our firm focus on improving behaviour, teaching and learning and the rapid programme of change we are undertaking. I hope you will also be reassured by the fact Ofsted did acknowledge that change had begun.

We remain steadfastly committed to providing high quality education and skills provision for the young people of Northallerton and we know there is a great deal of work still to do. This is a school with great potential and with many wonderful students and supportive families. Already, as we revitalise governance and hold our leadership to account, we can see changes for the better and we are optimistic about a bright future.

Should any of you be interested to see the changes we are making you would be welcome to visit the school at any time.

We very much welcome your feedback about the development of our provision. We would value the opportunity to work in partnership with you, to determine what more we can do to support your children and what we need to do to enhance further our existing offer.

To do this we would like to invite you to a meeting in the main hall of the SCHOOL site (Brompton Road, Northallerton) on **Monday 19th March 2018**. Parents of students in Years 7 – 9 at 5.00pm and parents of students in Years 10 – 13 at 7.00pm.

If you have any specific or urgent issues then please do get in touch with me via email on Prytherch.K@northallertonschool.org.uk or by phone 01609 773340.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for your continued support of all the work we are currently doing at the school and your patience with us as we hold a training day on Friday 16th March.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Prytherch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keith Prytherch
Interim Headteacher, Northallerton School and Sixth Form College
Principal, Caedmon College, Whitby