

Our Ref: DN/DT.535

18th May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Her Majesty's Inspector, John Mitcheson – Monitoring Visit.

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of the normal Ofsted process Mr John Mitcheson HMI came to visit us on Tuesday, 25th April. The purpose of his visit was to assess how much progress we have made towards the targets he had set us on his last visit, and how we were preparing for our next full Ofsted inspection.

I am delighted to report that he was very pleased with the progress that we are making. Below are just a selection of the quotes from his letter that we received this week;

- 'Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection in order to become a good school.'
- 'Leaders at all levels are working much more cohesively to secure further improvement.'
- 'Increasingly, staff are using assessment information to spot underperformance and identify pupils in need of additional support.'
- 'Teaching is becoming more consistent.'
- 'Attendance in all years is improving'
- 'A wide range of monitoring information shows that improvements to behaviour noted at the time of the last monitoring inspection are being built upon.'
- 'Governors continue to closely monitor the schools improvement.'
- 'The local authority and (the Hackney Learning) Trust both feel that the pace of improvement is quickening, momentum is building and that the school is heading in the right direction.'

No visit of this nature occurs without some constructive criticisms, and Mr Mitcheson highlighted areas such as the consistency of marking, and the attention paid to planning. We agree with these comments and are already targeting these areas as our next development priorities.

The full report is available on our website, under the Ofsted banner. If you have any questions, or would like a paper copy sent home, please just contact us at the school and one can be sent. The letter acknowledges the work we have done regarding becoming an Academy with The Waveney Valley Trust. I will be writing to all parents regarding this proposal straight after half term to allow for a full and proper consultation process.

I am so pleased that all the work that we have been putting into improving the education at Stowmarket High is paying off, and that this was so clearly evident for such an experienced inspector such as John Mitcheson. I can assure you all, that despite the huge challenges we face, we are achieving something special here. I would like to thank you for your continued support as we push on now to our next set of targets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Lee-Allan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Lee-Allan
Headteacher