

Risdene Academy

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Principal: Miss Kerry Mills BA HONS PGCE

School Business Manager: Mrs S. Bell

27th February 2017

Dear Families,

As you are aware the school was inspected by Ofsted on the 10th and 11th January 2017. We have now received the final report. A full version of the report is available on the school website but should you wish to have a paper copy this can be obtained from the school office.

The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding (1), Good (2), Requires Improvement (3) or Inadequate (4). Previously, the school had been judged overall to be Requiring Improvement (3).

The inspection team in January 2017 judged Risdene Academy as Inadequate (4) and requiring 'Special Measures'. We understand that it is difficult for everyone involved in the school to recognise the extent of the challenges facing Risdene, but we have been clear with you in our previous communication that the school has been underperforming for a period of time. The Monitoring visit conducted at the school on the 16th November recognised this. It is very important that you understand the issues that face the school and the actions in order that we have your support in addressing them.

The overall outcome, as you can imagine, is deeply disappointing and does not reflect the progress made by the school since my arrival and the impact we have had already. However, nothing in the report was a surprise given the previous monitoring visits and the results from 2016. The report highlights many recommendations for the school, however you can be assured that all of these areas were already known and being addressed. We have developed new approaches to a whole variety of areas in school which will improve those areas that were identified. The Inspectors stated, **'The new principal has a coherent plan of action to implement improved systems.'**

Understandably, of most concern to parents will be the judgements of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and outcomes. The report discusses a legacy of underperformance but clearly states, **'The new leadership of teaching is addressing this area of weakness and there are promising signs that the quality of teaching is improving. The new Principal has been effective in communicating a clear vision for staff and pupils. These messages are reinforced through regular training sessions. Pupils and staff are in no doubt about the high expectations of behaviour and progress across the school. The inspectors also praised the improved multi-agency support.'**

Throughout the parents' evenings (on the 15th and 16th March) we will be available, and we will also be joined by members of The Education Fellowship and Academy Advisory Board, to answer any questions you have regarding the Ofsted report and the progress that we are already making in improving the school. However, please feel free to speak to Miss Mills before then should you have any questions or concerns.

*Going beyond the expected with **PRIDE***
Positivity Respect Integrity Determination Excellence

Risdene is improving and we are committed to ensuring that this progress is accelerated and extended. We are well aware that our improvements need to be firmly embedded and applied with rigour and consistency by all. You have our commitment that we will continue to drive improvement for all our students to achieve, succeed and be happy. With the publication of the report, now is the time to look forward and continue to address the issues that you as parent are most concerned about – that is ensuring the children of Risdene Academy receive the high quality education that they deserve in an environment where all children are supported to reach their full potential. We hope that you as parents will continue to support us with this aim.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "kmills". The letters are cursive and connected.

Miss K. Mills
Principal

Mrs C. Goodwin
Chair of the Academy Advisory Board