

Ryders Hayes School

A Primary Learning Academy – “Child Centred, Learning Focused”

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Friday 6 May 2016

Sally and I are delighted to be writing to you following our recent highly successful Ofsted inspection. You will receive today, a copy of our final report as a parent. You will also be receiving an electronic copy and there will be a link to the report on our website by Monday. We also wanted to write to you as a governor.

We are sure you will want to take time to sit and read the entire report; whilst doing so, please pay particular attention to the language used by Ofsted to describe our school, every word is carefully chosen so you should look out for vocabulary such as ‘strengths’, ‘strong’, ‘successful’, ‘share’, ‘outstanding’ and ‘powerful’.

As some of you are aware that the team who came to conduct the inspection were highly trained, unusually all three of the inspectors were Her Majesty’s Inspectors - professional inspectors who are also civil servants. We had ten minutes notice of their arrival in school on Tuesday 19 April and we are proud that they saw us just as we are everyday! We are also proud that all our judgements aligned with those of the HMI team and they recognised that our school is *‘relentless as they strive for improvement’, ‘expectations of pupils and of staff are high’* and there are *‘clear improvements in teaching and to pupils’ achievements’*. (page three) This is reflected by the fact that we have only three targets for further improvement (page two).

We know that you will join us in being equally proud of our children, just consider the sentence *‘Pupils’ behaviour, attitudes to learning and respect for other are exemplary. The pupils are a credit to the school and to their families’*. (page one) Our children were noted as behaving *‘impeccably’* (page five). The staff’s care for our children was also noted as *‘Pupils’ welfare is top priority. The staff go to great lengths to support individual pupils and their families, and to protect pupils and keep them safe’*. (page one). Both these areas were judged to be **outstanding** with no areas for development; see page five for more detail.

What about us?! We should all be proud of the judgements made about our governance too, we work so hard to support our school and should be delighted by all comments on governance including that we *‘share the ambitious vision for the school’s future’*. (Pay particular attention to the bottom of page three- top of four).

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that this is our first Ofsted inspection as an Academy and, as such, we were subject to a new and challenging framework that did not apply to our predecessor school. As you’d expect our staff team are already hard at work revising the action plan and refocusing on those aspects identified for improvement, many of which were already underway. As noted by the HMI team, *‘Leaders have a good understanding of the school’s strengths and areas that need attention and the plan for improvement is appropriately focused on next steps’*. (page three).

So please, pour yourself a cup of tea or coffee, sit down and enjoy reading our report! There is much to think about before our next full meeting on 24 May.

Janne B Hill

Sally J. Miner

