

## **Our Response to the findings of Ofsted Inspection Team**

Thank you to everyone who has either been in touch with school or attended the meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March following the publication of our Ofsted report. Our aim is to keep you informed of the steps we are taking to respond to the issues raised by Ofsted but most importantly, to ensure we are giving our young people the best support and learning that we can.

Below are the responses to the questions that we have been most frequently asked in the last few days.

### **1. How are you ensuring that the needs of all pupils are met?**

- We want pupils of all abilities to make the progress of which they are capable. We have already appointed some new teachers, including three in Science, for September.
- We will be implementing a rigorous support and training programme for every teacher but particularly those that we have identified as needing extra help. This training will be carried out with support from colleagues at Millthorpe School.

### **2. What will becoming an Academy mean?**

- York High School will retain its own unique ethos, committed to our local community.
- There will be no change to school uniform.
- Parents and families will be entitled to the same benefits, eg. Free school meals, uniform grants etc. as they do now.
- York High will become part of the South Bank Academy Trust, if the DfE approves this on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### **3. What changes will be happening in the curriculum and with exams?**

The curriculum in any school is increasingly determined by the DfE. The opportunity to study vocational courses in school, which were so successful for our students, have been reduced significantly but we will continue to try and find the best fit for our pupils. We will no longer be insisting that so many pupils have to study a modern language from September 2017.

It is important for parents to understand that the exam changes that are taking place are happening in every school. This includes:

- A new grading system, 9-1 instead of A\*-G. This is for English and Maths in 2017 and most other subjects from 2018.
- As a result of government reforms coursework and modular tests have been removed by the examination boards in most subjects which means that grades are now determined on external exams at the end of two years.

- In short, exams are getting more difficult. This is a challenge for pupils and teachers and we are working hard to implement better ways of helping our pupils succeed.

#### **4. What happens next?**

- A new Head of School for York High will be appointed in May and they will take up post in September 2017.
- The Regional Schools Commissioner will be deciding on the academisation of York High on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The trustees of the South Bank Academy Trust then need to confirm that they want to work with York High School.
- There will then be a period of legal and due diligence work but everyone is hoping that York High will join the South Bank Academy Trust on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.
- If this process goes smoothly, York High will not be inspected again until the 2019-2020 school year but parents will be regularly informed about the progress and improvements being made. This will include regular updates on our website and school Facebook page.

Thank you again for your support. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

David Ellis - Headteacher