



## Letter to Parents from the Governing Body of Sir William Ramsay School

Since our last update, the school has made good progress against the recommendations made by Ofsted following their inspection visit in earlier this year. This could not have happened without the significant contributions of the Senior Leadership Team, the Executive Head, our Ofsted Monitoring Officer and the Governing Body. Our main areas of focus have been on the school's Leadership & Management with focus on data, recruiting a new Headteacher and supporting the Acting Head in the creation of an action plan to address Ofsted's concerns.

In his role of Monitoring Officer, Ralph Batten reports regularly on our progress; we're pleased that Ralph's initial monitoring reports show that we are heading in the right direction with good progress being made in the Sixth Form and greater consistency in the evaluation of the overall quality of teaching and learning – key focus areas from the Ofsted inspection.

Robert Preston was appointed as Executive Head to support Chris Carter in his role as Acting Head. Robert worked with Chris and the Senior Leadership Team to analyse the Ofsted recommendations and create a robust action plan to take the school from Requires Improvement to Good and prepare us for our next Ofsted inspection, likely to be early in 2017. The action plan is overseen by the Governing Body and we are working in partnership with the school and its senior leaders to support it through this critical phase.

As Robert returns to his role as Headteacher at The Misbourne, we want to thank him for his leadership through this phase, for his support to Chris and particularly for creating a plan that we all buy into, agreeing that it gives us the focus we require to meet Ofsted's recommendations.

As we move forward to begin to activate the school's action plan, we must make sure that the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body work as one to achieve our aims and that the students achieve the outcomes they deserve. To do this, we have appointed Michael Jones as Executive Head. Michael is currently Headteacher at Holmer Green Senior School and he has very recently and skilfully guided his school from Requires Improvement to Good. Michael will work closely with Chris Carter and the Senior Leadership Team, giving them the right level of guidance and support to bring the action plan to a successful conclusion.

Finally, the Governing Body has changed its structure and personnel to make sure we can actively support Michael and the School. Following Emma Banister-Dean and Clare Darvell's decision to step down from the Governing Body, Bryan Mogford joins us from Holmer Green Senior School as Chair to support Paul Fleming as Vice Chair and the Governors have clear accountabilities aligned to the sections of the Action Plan where they can add most value. Bryan is Vice Chair at Holmer Green Senior School and he worked closely with Michael, his Senior Leaders and the Holmer Green Senior School Governing Body throughout their recent transition. We would like to thank Emma and Clare for their passion and sheer hard work within the Governing Body and wish them well for the future.

At the start of term, we began the process of recruiting a Headteacher with the right balance of skills, knowledge and experience to lead the school. We were determined that this senior leader had to be absolutely the right person for the school; we set high standards. We appointed an external specialist recruitment agency to help us with this and interviewed six candidates from fifteen applications over two days in October. Unfortunately, none of the candidates met our specification and we chose not to appoint at this time.

We hope this update brings you up to speed and reassures you that the school is heading in the right direction however if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via the Clerk to Governors at [penny.parkin@btinternet.com](mailto:penny.parkin@btinternet.com)

The Governing Body

Acting Headteacher: Chris Carter

Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7UBT: 01494 815211 E: [office@swr.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@swr.bucks.sch.uk) [www.swr.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.swr.bucks.sch.uk)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

partners in excellence



The Challenge Award

For Excellence in Provision for 'vulnerable' Able, Gifted & Talented Pupils

SSAT

improving schools



SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY SCHOOL



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNESCO Associated Schools

