



# GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

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06/06/22

Dear parents/carers,

I thought it would be helpful to keep you updated on recent events at Medeshamstede Academy.

## **Ofsted inspection**

You will know that on the morning of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the academy received a Section 8 no formal designated Ofsted inspection, without notice. The purpose of the section 8 inspection was to determine the effectiveness of safeguarding and to explore matters relating to pupils' behaviour. The inspection was conducted by two of Her Majesties Inspectors (HMI), who informed senior leaders that Ofsted do not require schools to notify parents/carers of a section 8 inspection.

At the end of the day on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, the lead HMI inspector made the decision to convert the section 8 inspection into a full section 5 inspection. This therefore took place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022. This was to enable the inspectors to get a deeper understanding of the academy over three days and to rigorously scrutinise the following areas:

- **The Quality of Education**
- **Personal Development of pupils**
- **Behaviour and Attitudes of pupils**
- **Leadership and Management**

Over the three days, Ofsted quite rightly continued to rigorously scrutinise all aspects of safeguarding arrangements within the academy. The outcome of the inspection remains confidential until the report is finalised and published by Ofsted. This can take several months but we will share the full report with you once this is published. At this stage I can share with you that the findings very much reflect the journey that the academy has been on, where it is now and plans for future.

I would like to thank parents/carers for their feedback to Ofsted, including responding to Ofsted Parent View and using the Ofsted text messaging service. This information was taken into consideration as part of Ofsted's overall findings.

## **Disruption around the academy**

There is a small minority of students in the academy who present with very challenging behaviour's, who continue to cause persistent damage to academy property and continue to persistently disrupt the learning of the other pupils. Greenwood Academies Trust remain firm that this will not be tolerated and is unfair of the other pupils who attend the academy. For a small minority of pupils, permanent exclusion is now a consequence that is inevitable.

## Safeguarding

Greenwood Academies Trust continue to remain firmly committed to safeguarding all pupils in our care. We want all pupils; including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to attend a great academy where they feel happy and safe, where they can play and learn, and leave well prepared for their next stages in life.

## New Executive Principal and new Principal

I recently made you aware that Sarah Martin will take up the role of Executive Principal of Medeshamstede Academy from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Sarah is an exceptional leader who currently leads one of Specialist Academies in Northamptonshire for pupils with autism. This was rated Good by Ofsted in March 2022. I am also pleased to announce that we have appointed Charley Smith to the role of permanent Principal. Charley is very ambitious for pupils with SEND and comes with a wealth of experience of leading specialist provisions for pupils with autism. Charley will also take up post on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Both Sarah and Charley will be visiting Medeshamstede Academy frequently before the summer holidays. They will play a significant role in making any necessary changes to the academy in preparation for September.

**Executive Principal- Sarah Martin**



**Principal- Charley Smith**



Martin Bentham will remain as interim Principal until the end of July 2022. I would like to thank Martin for his work and support in holding the fort at Medeshamstede, whilst Greenwood Academies Trust look to secure permanent leadership for the academy.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Lawrence".

Clive Lawrence OBE

**Strategic Director of Academies, SEND, for Greenwood Academies Trust**  
**National Leader of Education**