



January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I wish to inform you of recent developments within the school and to share an initial response to our January OFSTED Inspection. I am not at liberty to disclose the findings of the inspection team as, to date, the report has not been made public by OFSTED. I would like to express a huge thank you to the 221 parents who completed the on-line Parent View Survey, to those who contacted OFSTED via the text message facility, and who wrote personally or requested a direct telephone conversation. Your support is really appreciated. Whilst a school inspection is a stressful time for all involved, we were delighted with the findings and I look forward to sharing the final published report in due course.

As a headteacher I have been fortunate to work in some truly wonderful schools and serve many terrific young people and the communities in which they live. My first headship appointment began in September 1997. After what will be twenty years of school leadership, last term, on 16th November, I wrote to the Governing Board informing them of my intention to retire at the end of December 2017.

The national picture in education is one that points towards a school-led system. By this I mean a system where schools work closely together, supporting one another to enhance the opportunities for all students and staff. We have seen and will continue to see changes within local education authorities that mean far less funding and support for schools. At the same time the Government has made a commitment to create professional development opportunities for teachers and to open up some funding streams to those schools that have academy status. Teacher recruitment is now a large part of the work of those schools that have Teaching School status and at secondary level such initiatives are open to those schools within a multi academy trust arrangement. It is therefore a sensible way forward for Richmond School Governing Board to engage with staff, parents and other stakeholders on academy status and to see if there is a strong group of schools that reflects our vision and values and can enhance the opportunities for our students. Hence, a large part of my work in 2017 will be to explore the opportunities of being in a multi academy trust and then, when ready, to widen the discussions with all those connected with Richmond School.

Whilst I embark on this work I have asked the governors to consider the demands of the day-to-day leadership role of the school. At some point in the near future the governors will of course need to resolve the position of headship from January 2018. In the interim, Deputy Headteacher, Jenna Potter, has accepted the responsibility of Head of School and will work alongside me in leading and managing the school on a day-to-day basis. Mrs Potter will begin her role as Head of School after the February half term break. I know she is excited about this opportunity and will develop the recommendations contained in the report from our recent Ofsted inspection.

Thank you once again for your support.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Ian Robertson
Headteacher