

5 December 2022

Dear Friends of Test Valley School

Ofsted Report

Following last month's inspection of Test Valley School by the independent Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), the final report will be published on the Ofsted website today. The report is already on the school's website and was shared with parents at the end of last week. Ofsted has rated the school as Inadequate.

We are all aware of the challenging journey the school has been on since Ofsted's previous visit, including the changes in head teacher during this period. Nevertheless, the Governors and Senior Leadership Team are disappointed by the conclusions of the report and are committed to rapidly turning this rating around.

While the report has raised clear points for us to address, we are pleased to note that, in their meetings with senior leaders and governors, Ofsted has acknowledged the progress that is now being made. We can also take pride in our recent academic results in the summer – the best the school has achieved for a number of years. However, the safety and happiness of our students remain paramount and we will be paying particular attention to the recommendations Ofsted have made regarding this.

Following the consultation process back in June, the Governors recommended academisation as the best way forward for the school. The Department for Education (DfE) recommends that small, rural schools should be supported within a strong Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and we are fortunate that we have already made significant progress along this route with our partners at HiSP MAT. The Ofsted report has now triggered a formal Academy Order which will both guide and accelerate this process.

On a practical level, both HiSP and the Local Authority (HCC) have increased their support on a day-to-day basis. Amanda Parry and Jo McKeown, both experienced head teachers, together with Mark Kingswood from HCC, are now in school on a daily basis to support Andrew Page and the Senior Leadership team while Caroline Lowing is signed off due to illness. We are also recruiting and engaging supply resources to cover teaching gaps and ensure consistent, high standards of teaching and learning.

The Regional Schools Commissioner is now running the academisation process and we continue to work closely with our partners at HiSP, the DfE and Hampshire County Council to manage the transition and achieve stability, swift improvement and the best outcome for our school and community. Further detail on this will follow before the end of term.

Please do feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns by sending an e-mail to info@testvalley.hants.sch.uk We very much appreciate your support during the next phase of the school's improvement journey.

Best regards



David Hall
Chair of Governors

HEAD OF SCHOOL • MS C LOWING

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