



12 January 2023

Letter on behalf of the Directors of Huish Episcopi Academy

Dear Parents and Carers

You may be aware the academy was visited by Ofsted, who carried out a graded inspection in November 2022. Since then, we have been awaiting a date for publication of the full report and can now inform you that full publication of the report is due on the 17th January when it can be found on the Ofsted website.

Regrettably the Ofsted Inspectors have judged the Academy to be Inadequate and requiring 'Special Measures' in all areas, other than the Sixth Form which was rated as 'Requires Improvement'.

While not yet officially published, we have included the report along with this letter. The report is disappointing and a difficult read, but the Board of Directors is fully accepting of the contents and have been keen to act quickly and decisively to bring about the rapid improvements the Academy community deserves.

The judgement means the Academy will be expected to join a Multi Academy Trust. Multi Academy Trusts are groups of schools who collaborate on all areas of school improvement led by a Chief Executive Officer who provides high level strategic leadership, management and accountability. This is a course of action the Board of Directors is fully accepting of and are committed to support this transition.

Whilst the report was concerning for pupils, families and our wider community it has provided Huish Episcopi Academy with a strong mandate for change. These changes began immediately after the inspection when the Board sought the assistance of local Multi Academy Trusts, with the guidance of the Department for Education's Regional Director for the South West, Hannah Woodhouse. At this point Ms. Emma Yates and Alun Williams of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership were deployed to provide strong leadership to the Academy. In her role as Interim Executive Headteacher Emma Yates made a number of changes to ensure students felt safe and the quality of education could begin to improve.

Nat Parnell, a Regional Director for United Learning, took over as the Interim Headteacher at the beginning of this term as part of this school improvement support. United Learning is an extremely strong national Multi Academy Trust with a superb track record for school improvement and academic excellence. Nat has a strong track record as a Headteacher and will be leading the Academy until August 2023 and we have begun the process of seeking an outstanding Principal to lead the school forward from September.

Nat will be supported by other experienced senior colleagues from United Learning and work is well underway to bring about change, beginning with staff training taking place at the start of this term, with a full strategic improvement plan to follow up in the next week with what is being done to correct the weaknesses in the school. These actions are being regularly

Huish Episcopi Academy

Wincanton Road, Langport, Somerset TA10 9SS

Tel: 01458 250501 Fax: 01458 250262

Email: office@hea.ac.uk Web: www.huishepiscopi.net

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scrutinised, monitored and evaluated by the Board of Directors and the Department for Education.

Safeguarding, behaviour and curriculum have been the first priorities to address within the school to ensure that your children enjoy belonging to their school community and where they know they will experience success and friendship.

Nat Parnell will be holding two forums for Parents/Carers next week- Tuesday 17th January at 17.30 and Thursday 19th January at 17.30 to talk about the Improvement Plan and answer questions. Both meetings will be held in the main hall. Please use this link to indicate your preferred date if you wish to attend.

[Huish Episcopi Academy- Open Forum](#)

The positives included in the report include good opportunities for developing talents and considering future careers with a range of extra-curricular activities, the knowledge of our teachers and aspirational expectations in our sixth form courses, and the range of experiences that equip our students for life beyond school such as work experience and careers advice.

We are extremely proud of all the students who attend Huish Episcopi Academy, as you can imagine over the last few weeks a number of external visitors have met with students, with the overwhelming feedback being positive. The changes that have taken place and are coming in the next few weeks and months will undoubtedly ensure they get the high-quality experience of education they deserve.

As the parent or carer of a Year 6 child who will be moving to the Academy in September, I am sure the report will be concerning. This letter is to reassure you that decisive action has been taken to ensure that your son or daughter gets the very best education when they arrive at Huish. Key changes have already taken place, and the Board of Directors have been outward looking in identifying United Learning, one of the biggest and most successful Multi Academy Trusts in the country to support making the necessary changes which will ensure the students who attend the Academy get the best educational experience.

If you have any questions about the report, please do get in touch with us via email to address in the first instance governors@hea.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely on behalf of Huish Episcopi Academy Board of Directors.



Dave Elston
Chair of the Board of Directors