

Subject: **Ofsted Report May 2019 Beacon High**

Dear Pupils, Parents, Colleagues and Friends of Beacon High

## **OFSTED: GOOD LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT AT NEW BEACON HIGH**

During 2018, the then Governing body recognised that significant change was needed at Holloway School and in September 2018 the school joined Islington Futures Federation of Community Schools. This introduced Jo Dibb, a national leader of education, as Executive Head and Alan Streeter as the new and experienced Head Teacher. Islington Futures includes EGA, an outstanding secondary school, and the Angel Teaching School Alliance. We also decided to mark the new era for the school by renaming it Beacon High.

So it is with pleasure that we attach alongside this letter the latest report from Ofsted, which covers the transition period from the old Holloway to Beacon High. It is a report that rates the school's leadership and management as Good, and recognises the many strengths that the school has. We are all rightly proud of the inclusiveness and quality of our pastoral care that the report recognises, and the range of enrichment activities and opportunities to develop all pupils that the school offers - "The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good".

We know that Beacon High is on a journey to an overall Good rating, but take great confidence from the report's comment that "the effectiveness of their good leadership is evident in all aspects of the school's work" and that "where teaching is strong, it is because teachers have positively embraced training and apply the school's agreed policies for effective teaching". To make clear our step change, at Beacon High we will welcome year 7 students into their own area, where they will have time to make new friends, to share what they know and for the school to identify any gaps in their learning.

The report reflects the governors' and leadership team's evaluation of what needs to happen in order to further improve, and leaders already have robust plans in place to address the outstanding issues. It is for all of us to make sure we build on the steps already taken, and we look forward to working with all members of the Beacon High community including all our families, to ensure that the students get the support and encouragement that they need.

We recognise that sometimes we will all need help to do this, and at Beacon High we encourage everyone to ask for help when they need it, when they don't really understand, or when they are struggling. This applies to parents and carers as much as it does to students and staff.

Our vision is for all members of the community to be proud of Beacon High and to work with us in creating an outstanding secondary school for our young people. I am looking forward to working with my fellow governors, the Islington Futures senior leadership team, the Beacon High team and all of you, to make this vision a reality.

Jill McLaughlin, Chair of Governors