

Dear Parents,

A huge thank you to you all for your on-going help and support. A special thank you to those who were present at the whole school meeting last week – we are encouraged by the parent support that we have experienced during and after the meeting. A number of parents gave us their contact details and offered direct support. I hope you agree that the tone of the meeting was one of positivity and supportiveness.

Yesterday morning we received further communication (information) from the Department for Education notifying us that they are proceeding with a notice for ‘relevant restrictions’ to our licence in response to previous inspections. It states: “The specific restriction that the Secretary of State has decided upon will be, **when it takes effect**, that no new students may be admitted to the School.”

This is an unfortunate decision because the decision to impose this restriction is based on the previous inspections and judgements. We feel, however that there is a strong case to appeal this decision given the progress we have made, and are confident that we have already met and are in the process of meeting all the requirements and do not foresee reason for them to enforce the decision.

We have the opportunity to appeal and the appeal process is likely to take several months during which time we can continue to admit new pupils.

We also have the option of requesting the DfE for the relevant restriction to be revoked. We can request an inspection when we are ready to see whether we meet all the Independent Schools Standards (ISS). The positive of all of this is that we do not have a monitoring inspection hanging over us, unexpected, at any moment in time.

The plan of action is as follows;

1. We have 28 days to appeal and will be instructing solicitors to begin the appeal process and ensure

- appeal is lodged within 28 days.
2. Until the outcome of the appeal is known we are able to continue to admit pupils as usual.
 3. We will continue to collect evidence and information needed for appeal process.
 4. We are continuing with our current action plan for meeting ALL areas of the ISSs.
 5. We will request an inspection when we are ready to see whether we meet all the ISS. We could decide to commission a mock Ofsted inspection to check our position before we make the request for a formal inspection.
 6. We will continue to update staff and parents on progress with the action plan.

Ideally, we will have achieved all this before the end of next term and the future of our school will be assured. Our hands will be firmly on the tiller and we will be steering our own course.

Given all that has been achieved and our determination to come through these current difficulties, we are confident that we can make it!

We understand, and feel the anxiety around this latest information and we appreciate that you may be concerned that the school will be closed. Of course, there is always the possibility that the Department for Education could revoke our licence to be a school, but we feel this is very unlikely. In some ways the school is more in control of its destiny than it has been for many months. An enormous amount of work has been done, many changes have been made and, with your continued cooperation, this momentum will be maintained.

We would like to continue the constructive dialogue started with you at the whole school meeting and so will be holding a meeting to answer questions and engage your support in

moving things forward. We are sorry for the short notice but felt it was urgent and so have scheduled the meeting for **Monday 20th March at 7.30pm in the dining room.**

For those who cannot attend please come and talk to us at drop in Tuesdays and Thursdays 8.30-9.30am or email for an appointment at a more suitable time to discuss any concerns or questions.

Best wishes
Tina Hobday

Chair: School Management Team (SMT)