

12th June 2019

Dear parent/carer,

A year ago everyone associated with the Academy were so proud when Ofsted acknowledged that our school was improving and finally took us out of Special Measures. Staff and students had worked incredibly hard for this to happen.

However, you may be aware that the last twelve months have been very challenging at times for Merrill Academy. As a consequence of this, a more recent inspection identified a number of areas where urgent action and improvement are needed.

Although we accept Ofsted's judgements, it was disappointing to see that many of the improvements we have implemented this year have not made it into the report. One area in particular is increase in parental engagement and support for the Academy. We are extremely grateful to so many of you who have contributed to record attendances at parents' evenings and other events including: open evenings, assemblies and our showcase events; where dance and music was performed for the first time in several years and the National award winning Merrill Melody Makers sang for you. We are confident that with your continued support we can continue to move things forward at pace.

We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the entire team of staff at Merrill Academy are already working extremely hard to address the identified improvement areas, and are confident that Ofsted will be able to report on rapid progress at their next monitoring visit. Also, we have added an extra feature to the web site where you are able to contact the Academy with any SEND, Safeguarding or Bullying concerns.

In addition, to help us make immediate and sustained improvement, we are currently receiving additional support, that is providing us with extra capacity and further experience. We are also pleased to announce that we have recently appointed a new Headteacher starting in September, who is looking forward to working closely with our staff and community. More details will follow shortly on both these items of news.

There will be an opportunity for you to discuss the judgements from the report on Tuesday the 18th of June with senior members of staff and the new Headteacher between 09:30 and 12:00 in the school library.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Beedle
Acting Headteacher



Neil Calvert
CEO – The Northworthy Trust