

Dear Parent/Carer

### **End of Term Update**

As the term draws to a close, I wanted to thank you for your continued support, feedback and engagement this term. Since taking up post as Head of School in September, I have enjoyed getting to know staff, pupils and families.

Throughout the term, with the support of Landau Forte Charitable Trust, we have been driving up standards at LFA Moorhead and delivering improvements. However, continued work is needed to strengthen teaching and learning and ensure that all pupils are making good progress.

Earlier this half-term, HMI Inspectors returned to the academy as part of their monitoring. Overall they found that we have implemented an extensive programme to improve the curriculum and quality of teaching, however, it is still too early to judge the impact on pupils' progress. They did see some early signs that the measures are working and it is our expectation that, once they are consistently embedded across the school, they will begin to accelerate improvement.

As the report notes, as well as enhancing the curriculum across all key stages, we have worked closely with Leah Charlesworth, a National Leader of Education (NLE), to strengthen lesson planning so that every child has the right level of challenge and support to make good progress. In addition to this, we have put in place a comprehensive training programme for staff, including in key areas of mathematics and phonics, which will continue next term.

We do recognise that in a few year groups there have been staffing changes but we have been working hard to minimise disruption to pupils' learning. We have appointed several new members of staff this term, including middle leader roles as well as securing additional expertise and educational support from NLEs and the Landau Forte Teaching School. We will, however, be saying goodbye to Deputy Head Mr White who leaves us at the end of this term. I would like to thank him for his contributions to the academy and I am sure you will join me in wishing him the very best of luck in his new role.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in raising the levels of attendance across the academy. Inspectors noted that this had improved markedly since their last visit and that pupils' behaviour had likewise improved. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with parents to build on these improvements further in the New Year so that all our pupils can enjoy and take advantage of their learning.

Whilst we are continuing to address the educational challenges that Ofsted have rightly recognised at the academy, it is also pleasing to remember what a happy and inclusive environment we have here. Each day, when I walk through the gates and see our pupils, families and staff I am struck by our potential as a school and what I am convinced is becoming, over time, an excellent place for children to begin their education and nurture a genuine love of learning.

Thank you again for all your support and may I wish you all a very enjoyable, restful Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Beardmore  
Headteacher