



Monkseaton Middle School

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Head of School: Ms K Nichols-Mackay
Executive Headteacher: Mrs T Crowder
Chair of Governors: Mrs A Welsh

23rd March 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that the report from our recent Ofsted inspection has now been published and a link to this can be found on our website.



The report is in 2 parts; the front page giving ‘headlines’ based on the data set for the last 3 years and the remainder of the report giving details of the inspection team’s findings over the two days they were in school. The first part is limited by the framework guidelines and I would urge you wholeheartedly to read the second section in detail, as this is a greater reflection of the work that has taken place in school over the last 18 months. Please also be aware that the national benchmarks and Ofsted criteria are strictly adhered to under the inspection framework and measures all schools against national averages and benchmarking. These do not take into account the contextual factors of a school or indeed their individual context. However, you will see from the report that the HMI Lead and additional inspectors have acknowledged the significant work undertaken by Mrs Crowder and Ms Nichols-Mackay since their appointments in September 2016. They have been supported by a number of colleagues who are clearly having a positive impact within their roles and this has been acknowledged within the report.



As you are aware, as a school we have been on a significant journey over recent years and in particular the last 18 months. Along with the local authority, the governing body has worked hard to ensure stable leadership of the school and have without doubt, ensured that we further improve the life chances of our children in numerous ways. The recent inspection provided external validation that “*Senior leaders have an accurate view of the school’s performance. Their improvement planning is now focussed on the right issues*”. It was also acknowledged, that these plans are impacting positively on the outcomes for children, as seen in the improved results in July 2017. The HMI Lead and her team acknowledged the progress we have made and reinforced our own assessments that we are continuing to improve and as a result are improving the outcomes for all learners. OFSTED were also keen to point out the positive difference being made to pupils attendance.



However, we as governors and the senior leaders also acknowledge that there is still further work to be done to ensure that the changes are fully embedded.



One of the key areas that was highlighted during inspection was the acknowledgment that the decline in standards from the previous inspection to September 2016 had been identified and tackled head on by the newly appointed governing body and senior leaders to bring about the change required to move the school forward. “*Senior leaders and governors have an honest and accurate view of the school’s current effectiveness and performance. They have identified the correct priorities for improvement and are steadily tackling these.*”



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We were also delighted that the inspection team acknowledged the increased strength of leadership and management of the school since September 2016 and acknowledged the work achieved by some key staff to make improvements and move the school forward. This is a key element of the report as it reflects the school's capacity to further improve.

Although Ofsted has acknowledged that these improvements are not yet embedded, as with all inspections, school outcomes are judged over a period of 3 years based on student examination results and outcomes. Therefore, despite the improvements made since September 2016 and last year's results improving, we are still limited by the historic data. However, we feel assured that the judgments and comments made by the inspection team reflect the hard work which is taking place with current students to demonstrate the successes we will achieve in this years National tests and beyond.

As we expected, the team of inspectors made many comments regarding the positive nature of our ethos and our children. They have made specific references to the manner in which they conducted themselves within lessons as always representing themselves and the school with pride. *"Pupils are lively, kind and full of good humour. Their attitudes to visitors are positive. For example, during the inspection, pupils held doors open politely and without prompting, showed a keen interest in school matters during discussions and went out of their way to show inspectors around the school."*

All schools are given targets for improvement and in our case, the targets are areas where progress is already being made. The team acknowledged that this was the case and our self-evaluation is reflective of this.

As always I feel incredibly proud of the staff and students and once again thank you for your continued support as we work together to continue to support our children.

Yours sincerely

Anne L Welsh .

Mrs A L Welsh
Chair of Governors

K Lowthian

Mr K Lowthain
Vice Chair of Governors