



Charities Reg. No. 1049894

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# CAEDMON SCHOOL

North Yorkshire Education Committee

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29 April 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

## OFSTED and HMI Update

Following our OFSTED Inspection the school has recently been inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI). I am writing to update you on that inspection and on the developments of secondary education in the town.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014 Lee Owston, HMI conducted a re-inspection known as a Section 8 Inspection, to see whether the school is addressing the issues raised by Ofsted. The HMI Inspector spent a day in school, meeting with myself and the Leadership Team, visiting lessons and talking to the Local Authority and our Governing Body.

He recognised the extensive work that had been completed by senior staff and governors in looking into the reorganisation of education in Whitby. He also recognised that this has been the major factor in Caedmon gaining the required improvement judgement.

He reported that he had not seen any low level disruption either in the school or in any of the lessons he visited. I believe this is a much fairer reflection of 'Behaviour and Safety' at Caedmon School.

The Governors have created a School Improvement Group and the HMI noted their work and their appreciation of the way in which the school provides Governors with information. North Yorkshire County Council have also been working closely with us over the last few months and it was noted that the Link Adviser had supported the school well during this period. He felt that we now have a good insight into what works well and where further improvement is needed, recognising that we were reporting with greater clarity on how students make progress. I was pleased to note that HMI said "*your focus is now set firmly on plans for improving at pace the quality of teaching*".

We accept that there are still areas to work on but are pleased to have such extremely positive feedback from HMI.

We have been asked to focus on students who qualify for Pupil Premium Funding and those with Special Educational Needs. HMI made a further request for us to provide the Governing Body with information well in advance of their meetings. However, he did not identify any other issues for the school to address. This in itself is most pleasing.

The Inspection was a very positive experience for all concerned as was the judgement made by HMI that **the Senior Leaders and Governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas that required improvement**. I therefore feel the school is much better placed to move forward now into the future. The HMI Report is in the form of a letter and is published on the Ofsted website.



## **Future of Education**

We are moving closer to the point where the Local Authority is expected to confirm the amalgamation of the two schools. The new school, Caedmon College Whitby, will have two sites, the Normanby Site (currently Whitby Community College) and the Scoresby site (currently Caedmon School).

Working on the assumption that the amalgamation will go ahead we are working very hard behind the scenes in preparation for September to ensure we are ready for a new academic year. The new name, *Caedmon College Whitby* would maintain that very important historic link and the house system used at Caedmon will continue into the new school.

Caedmon School has always been praised highly for its pastoral support of learners. Within the new school an Assistant Headteacher and Head of Year will work with your child from Year 8 through to the end of Year 11 providing important continuity within the new school. A specialist team in Year 7 will work closely with our primary feeder schools. Teachers from Caedmon and the College will be teaching across both sites to ensure we provide the best provision for all learners in our care. Students will only move to access the best provision available.

There are exciting times ahead of us and we are sure you will want to support us in providing improved secondary education in Whitby, whatever the outcome of the Local Authority's final decision.

Parents/carers who may be concerned about our relationship with Eskdale School can be assured that we will continue to work closely in collaboration in the best interest of all learners wherever they begin their secondary education.

Meanwhile, if you have any concerns or wish to discuss this matter with me, as parents/carers have already done so over recent weeks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr R A Hewitt  
**Headteacher**