



06 February 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

Following our recent Ofsted inspection on the 16 and 17 January the school has just received its first Ofsted report. You may view a copy on our website [www.batleygrammar.co.uk](http://www.batleygrammar.co.uk).

Parents and carers had the opportunity to comment and 95 responses were received. The inspectors indicated that this was a good response and we should like to thank you for your feedback, which we welcome.

Batley Grammar School, a Free School for less than 18 months, provides a more unusual context.

We recognised, at an early stage, that there would be significant challenges moving from the independent sector, with a somewhat different focus, to the state funded sector. The latter being an educational world of greater accountability and measures of achievement linked to data, targets and levels of progress.

A further challenge presented itself when we were required to increase our roll from 350 to almost 700 pupils in just over two years.... no mean task!

This, and the journey upon which we had embarked, was recognised both by the Ofsted inspection team and the DfE HMI inspectors who visited us in June and September. Their comment and opinions about how well and thoughtfully managed the transition to become a Free School had been, were well received.

During the transition our aims have been twofold: firstly to ensure that the traditions, ethos, values and culture of the existing school were maintained. Secondly, to ensure that the teaching and learning continues to improve, enabling every child to make better than expected progress in relation to their starting points on entry. Again quite a challenge, until we finally received the data by which the school's performance could be evaluated.

It is fair to say that in our new context the recent data tracking systems we have established provide a much clearer picture of the attainment and progress of each individual student, despite there being many more pupils in school. This allows us to intervene much earlier to support all students and ensure they are on target.

Ofsted commented particularly favourably upon primary teaching and pupil progress, the well-focused school improvement and development plan that had begun to be implemented effectively. They recognised the improvement in the quality of teaching since opening as a Free School and the school's honest evaluation of its own strengths and weaknesses and its recognition that because the school was on a journey, it was a little too early to be able to judge the full impact of all of this.

The pupils' good behaviour and their positive attitudes to learning did not go unnoticed; neither did the involvement and contribution of parents and your comments on the survey, the majority of which were overwhelmingly positive.

The Ofsted inspectors acknowledged that there had been effective action taken by both governors and leadership to bring about the significant changes involved in expanding the school and moving it from the independent to the state sector. So you will understand when we say that we are pleased with the school's development in these early stages of our journey, and are assured that we are heading in the right direction with accelerated progress towards our targets.

Yours faithfully

David Peel  
Chair of Governing Body

Brigid P Tullie  
Head