

21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: Principals Update – New Build and Ofsted

With just over twenty four hours left I cannot help but begin my reflection of the school year, and in particular the last three half terms since taking the role of Principal at Oak. I really have loved every minute and am elated to have been given the honour of leading Oak through the next exciting stage of its journey.

Yesterday I was able to get a real glimpse of the future and share with both parents and the wider community the proposed plans for Oak's rebuild. When talking through the plans there was a real sense of joy from all, in knowing that after a couple of really tough years in everyone's lives, we can look forward to giving the community, a state of the art school, that puts education at its heart, and that everyone can be proud of. The pictures below and video fly through will give you a sense of what we can look forward to. [Oak Design Proposal Video Flythrough - YouTube](#)



## Ofsted Inspection

As you know, recently we invited a team of inspectors to Oak for a Section 5 inspection. I am now able to share the final report with you at the following [link](#). The report will soon be published on the Ofsted Website for the general public to read.

During their two days at Oak, inspectors were able to recognise that 'Leaders and staff know students well. They want students to do well and promote positive values through and beyond the curriculum...' Inspectors also highlighted that, 'behaviour around the school site is generally calm' and that 'students enjoy a growing number of extra-curricular activities.'

Through conversations with staff and students and from your survey they noted that 'Leaders share strong values. They have a clear vision about how to provide a high-quality education for all students' and that, 'Leaders' ambition for the curriculum is that it gives all students, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.'

We are proud that, although overall the inspectors felt that the academy 'required improvement', they could recognise, and assessed, our personal development of students to be 'good'. This was supported by you in our recent Sandwell Charter with some of the following comments made.

### Oak Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

Hayley Richley BSc (Hons), Principal

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"I am thrilled at the way my child has matured whilst at school. Teachers really care."

"My son has become so out-going, he loves school, he is practically a different child -as a parent I love how they praise the parents & kids."

"I was very worried about my grandson's behaviour at one stage but the help and support he has received had been phenomenal. He is now a well-rounded, responsible, likeable young man."

The inspection itself was a moment in time, that reaffirmed to us that the elements of school improvement that we are currently working on are absolutely the right ones. Since taking on the role of Principal, plans for improvement had already been adjusted and implemented. I know that many of you have recognised this and reported this in our Sandwell survey, and I thank you for your support.

"The new head teacher already seems to be making ripples to improve the school and she has my full support."

With increasing student and staff numbers, a restructured senior leadership and pastoral teams, and continued trust support, I am confident we have everything needed to strengthen the curriculum and support our students in overcoming gaps in their knowledge, allowing them to succeed and move on to futures of their choice. By the time we open the doors of our new school in September 2024 I know there will be no doubt in anyones mind that we are a 'good' school that puts curriculum and personal development at the heart of all we do.

As always many thanks for your support. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk](mailto:hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk)

Yours Sincerely,



Hayley Richley  
**Principal**

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