



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

Mr R James, Deputy CEO & Executive Headteacher
Dr C Cusick, Head of School



26 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Initially we would like to thank you for your ongoing support as we re-establish routines in school since our return in March. We appreciate that for some students this has been straightforward, whilst others have found this to be more challenging.

Please take the time to talk to your children about how they have found the return to school and inform us of any support you feel we could offer.

Recently, the school received an Ofsted inspection, which focused on the remote education provision as well as safeguarding during lockdown. The inspection was an additional visit that was not part of the normal cycle of inspections following the Ofsted report last year.

Thank you to those who participated in the Parent View survey. The results reflected our own parent/carer surveys, indicating improvements in many areas of provision since last year. We are fully aware there are still areas to develop and are confident that they can now become embedded with a sustained period in school.

The Inspection Report is attached, and forms two judgements:

- Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.
- Safeguarding is not effective.

We are pleased that the inspectors recognised the work we have completed to provide a remote education that mirrors the planned curriculum and timetable as much as possible. The lessons were of good quality and most students were continuing to make progress. However, further work was needed to ensure that all students, particularly those with SEND needs, were able to fully access the lesson content and receive appropriate support.

We were disappointed that safeguarding was not deemed to be effective. We accept the comments made, which primarily refer to the quality of centralised record keeping during lockdown and are confident that we have already taken significant steps to address the concerns identified.

Since the inspection, a significant amount of work has been completed:

- The appointment of a new Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Revised protocols for recording concerns and issues on a central system.
- Training provided to staff to improve the quality and content of recorded concerns and actions.
- New line management and accountability process to monitor completion of recorded concerns and actions.
- Revised protocols for Safeguarding Governor monitoring visits.
- Increased monitoring of recording systems by Executive Headteacher and Head of School.
- External review of revised procedures completed by Essex Local Authority Safeguarding Team.



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The external review by the Essex Local Authority Safeguarding Team was completed on Wednesday 24 March 2021. The review evaluated the revised recording system and the changes listed above and involved discussions with students, teachers, support staff, leaders, and governors.

The findings from the evidence gathered on the day, indicated the school is taking appropriate action to address the issues Ofsted raised. These are actions that need embedding, but the team did not find anything to give concern about the leadership's capacity to carry out the necessary improvements.

Please be assured that the safety and welfare of the students is a key priority, we are committed to ensuring they feel safe in school.

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, please contact us.

The merger of NEMAT and Bridge Academy Trust schools has started positively. Additional resources and support have been deployed to support the implementation of the Statement of Action. Leaders, teachers, support staff and governors are all working together to embed the improvements to ensure the students receive the best educational experience.

Yours faithfully

Mr R James
Executive Headteacher/Deputy CEO

Dr C Cusick
Head of School