

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today to update you on the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

The full report will be available on the Ofsted and academy websites, but I wanted you to be the first to know how the Academy was judged and the plans that are in place to support it moving forward.

While the report's overall finding is that the academy continues to be in Special Measures, Ofsted has recognised that our new leadership team, appointed by Greenwood Academies Trust, shares a common commitment to improving the academy.

Inspectors also recognised that a review of the curriculum is already underway and that we have taken recent action to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the academy. With the Trust's support, we will also continue to provide and broker additional external support, as we have done to date.

As you may be aware from our previous correspondence, the academy's pupil roll has been significantly below capacity for many years, largely due to a delayed local housing development, which has also resulted in the expected rebuild of the academy not taking place. This has led to the academy being unviable, with too few pupils, and accommodation that is unsuitable for delivering a high-quality secondary education.

It is for this reason, that after long and careful consideration, the Secretary of State for Education, in mutual agreement with Greenwood Academies Trust, has made the substantive and final decision to proceed to the closure of the academy from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 leading up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

As detailed in the Trust's letter on 27<sup>th</sup> February, a clear closure process has been developed and the academy, with the support of the Trust, will ensure all pupils are properly supported and have access to a good education throughout the closure transition period.

This proposed closure transition plan includes the listening period which runs from 28<sup>th</sup> February until 5pm on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and provides stakeholders and interested parties such as pupils, parents and staff to be provided with more information about the proposed closure process. It is also an opportunity for you to submit your views on how the process can best be managed. Full details are in the Trust's letter from 27<sup>th</sup> February and are available on our website.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Our parents and carers play a vital role in our academy, and we will continue to work closely with you over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



**Steve White**  
**Principal**  
**Houghton Regis Academy**