



# Longridge High School

A Maths and Computing College with a Rural Dimension

27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Parent / Carer,

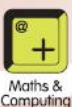
Many thanks to the very large number of you who responded to the Ofsted questionnaire over the recent Inspection which took place on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive and supportive.

The Inspection Report is now available on the school website. We are one of the first schools in Lancashire to be inspected under this new framework, which was introduced in September 2015. Our feedback to Ofsted will be that the new Inspection process is very rushed. It involved two Inspectors visiting the school for a day to look at a handful of lessons and talk to staff, with three additional inspectors then being brought into school the next morning. Therefore judgements were made based on a snapshot of school life. We acknowledge that the online questionnaires for parents, staff and pupils to comment through went offline for a significant period of time during the Inspection, and also closed two hours before the published time. This was due to technical difficulties at Ofsted.

The outcome of this process was that we retained our **Good** rating for Children's personal development, behaviour and welfare. However, even though our attainment has been **above the National Average for 5A\* - C with English and Maths for several years** (indeed results over the past five years have been the best in the school's history) our progress in some areas over the past couple of years has not been as good as we would want. This is due to a number of issues some of which were out of our control including concerns with exam board marking and some staffing issues. The plans we have put in place have contributed to current progress being much improved across the school. However, under this new and very stringent Ofsted criteria, the Ofsted team decided to give us a Requires Improvement Judgement for the school. Therefore judgements for Teaching and Learning and Leadership and Management across the school are also Requires Improvement. Whilst bitterly disappointed by this, the report is very clear in acknowledging that we are already taking action to ensure progress improves and that we have the capacity to improve. Indeed, one of the areas for development at the previous inspection, the marking of pupils' work, was praised as having 'improved notably' and another area, Special Educational Needs, was commended, with pupils being 'well supported across the school.'

We are particularly pleased with the views that 'Pupils enjoy school and show pride in it,' which is a key attribute for building success. Where Inspectors saw effective learning they commented on pupils being 'immersed in their learning, and their enthusiasm is evident in their written work.' They also found that 'pupils work diligently in lessons.' Inspectors commented on the ethos of the school, encapsulated in 'Respect permeates the school,' and 'the school environment is calm and orderly.'

Continued overleaf/....



Maths & Computing



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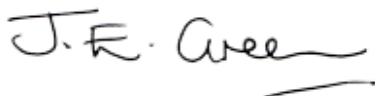
We are aware that there are key areas of the report which need to be robustly and speedily addressed. This is a process we had already begun to implement. A newly re-structured Senior Leadership Team and newly re-structured Governing body are working on accelerating progress and the recent Key Stage Three Evening, attended by up to 80 parents, was a great opportunity for parents to talk to us about school and children's learning.

We are firmly committed, as always, to providing a quality education for every one of our pupils and are further strengthening our systems to ensure there is greater consistency in all aspects of evaluation across the school. The essence of this school remains resolutely strong – the pupils are an absolute joy and a strength of the school. This report clearly shows that strong personal development for all young people is evident at all levels, and your sons and daughters take great pride in their school. They leave us well prepared for their next steps in education, work and life.

The Local Authority and the Inspection Team are confident we have the capacity to improve our progress and they are confident and optimistic we will do this very quickly. Our current progress is very encouraging and we are determined to regain our Good status at the next inspection, which will be within two years.

As a school we remain committed to strengthening our partnership with you to secure the very best education for your child, and welcome your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. R. Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jane Green  
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane M Beckford". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jane Beckford  
Chair of Governor