

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD

26 January 2016

Commenced: 3.30pm

Terminated: 5.50pm

Present: Councillor L Travis (Chair)
Councillors Bell, JM Fitzpatrick and Peet and Paul Jacques and Jon Murray
Apologies for Absence: Councillors Quinn and Reynolds

22. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Board.

23. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Education Attainment Improvement Board held on 13 October 2015 were approved as a correct record.

24. PRESENTATION BY KAREN BURNS, PRINCIPAL OF INSPIRE ACADEMY, ASHTON

The Chair welcomed Karen Burns, Executive Principle of Inspire Academy, Ashton-under-Lyne, which opened in September 2015 and Discovery Academy, Hyde, due to open in September 2016.

Mrs Burns provided a summary of the ethos at Inspire Academy, her approach since the school opened and details of school life to ensure it provided a caring, learning environment where everybody was given the opportunity to grow and fulfil their true potential.

She made reference to staff recruitment and induction, securing pupil numbers, establishment of the governing body, wraparound care contract commencing Easter 2016, and parental engagement and feedback which was extremely positive.

In relation to Discovery Academy in Hyde, building development was on track and due for completion in July 2016. Marketing had taken place including leaflets, media and local nurseries and initial pupil numbers were encouraging. An Associate Principal had already been appointed and advertisements for other posts would be going out in the Spring. Next steps included Governing Body recruitment, communication with families following national offer day and building visits.

In addition, Mrs Burns gave a presentation on her innovative and successful work on positive parental engagement, the key features of the approach and parental feedback and comments.

Mrs Burns then responded to questions from Members of the Board.

Members expressed their appreciation and admiration of the achievements and education improvement that had been obtained through the approach Mrs Burns has adopted, although there was debate as to how scalable and transferable it would be to Secondary Schools.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted and Karen Burns, Executive Principle of Inspire and Discovery Academies, thanked for taking the time to address the Board.

25. PRESENTATION BY CHARLOTTE TREGLOWN, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEAD FOR THE THREE NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Chair welcomed Charlotte Treglown, School Improvement Lead, and Ian Munro, Chair of the Great Academies Education Trust, who gave a presentation updating Board Members on progress with the three New Charter Schools.

They advised that the improvement from 2014/15 has been quite significant and in particular English. It was acknowledged that there was still some significant work to be undertaken in Copley High School and support was being commissioned from the local authority to ensure the improvements were being sufficiently challenged. Alison Crompton, a national leader in education had been working with Copley High School, assisting in refining the school work development process and involvement with the Mathematics Department. New Charter Academy had been graded as Requires Improvement at its last inspection in February 2015 and the school was below the national average for expected progress in Mathematics and English.

Detailed projections for each of the schools were circulated which highlighted the challenges being faced and information to be provided to the Trust and the Governors on plans to improve targets and accelerate progress.

Ms Treglown and Mr Munro then responded to questions raised by Members of the Board relating to the performance of the schools under the Progress 8 accountability measures, the approach to parental engagement and how the Trust's senior leadership team intended to address the quality of teaching and standards of behaviour highlighted by Ofsted during its recent inspection.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted and Charlotte Treglown, School Improvement Lead, and Ian Munro, Chair of the Great Academies Education Trust, thanked for taking the time to address the Board.

26. UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE OF TAMESIDE SCHOOLS

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Assistant Executive Director (Learning) detailing the performance of schools in Tameside in 2015 at Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. He provided an update as following the official release of the DfE Performance Tables, the GCSE figures for Tameside had changed slightly. This was mainly due to the number of remarks of papers that had taken place.

In terms of 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics, 57.3% of pupils in Tameside achieved this in 2015, a further 1% improvement on the unvalidated figures. This meant Tameside was:

- The most improvement local authority in the North West, with a 3.6% improvement on the results of 2014;
- 1 of only 2 Greater Manchester local authorities to show an improvement in 2015;
- 4th out of 10 Greater Manchester authorities; and
- 9th out of 23 North West authorities.

Schools that had seen an improvement with the release of the revised figures were Alder Community High School, Audenshaw School, Fairfield High School and St Thomas More RC College.

In terms of expected progress in English, the local authority was 4th in the North West and had the second best figures across Greater Manchester. 73% of pupils made expected progress in Tameside compared to 71% nationally. There had been a minimal change with the figures of individual schools.

In Mathematics, 66% of pupils made expected progress, in line with the national average of 67% and the local authority was 3rd across Greater Manchester for expected progress. There had been minimal change with the figures of individual schools.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

27. PROGRESS 8 IN TAMESIDE IN 2015

The Interim Assistant Executive Director (Learning) made reference to a report considered at the Board meeting on 13 October 2015, explaining the new performance indicators for the end of secondary school education which would come into effect in August 2016. This further report illustrated how the performance of schools differed under Attainment 8 and Progress 8 if the performance indicators had been in place in 2015. These new performance measures provided an indication of a school's performance across a much wider range of subjects than was previously the case and put the emphasis on progress rather than attainment.

If the Progress 8 score for the school was -0.5 or lower, the school would fall below the floor standard which was likely to trigger an Ofsted inspection. The results of Tameside schools did differ under Progress 8 and Attainment 8 and it was important that Board Members were fully aware of how the individual performance of schools might be affected under the new accountability measures.

It was noted that schools had made changes to their curriculum to be fully compliant to the new accountability measures in 2015/16 and all Progress and Attainment 8 figures presented in the report should be treated with caution.

RESOLVED

That the changes and the new parameters for assessing the performance of schools in the Borough be noted.

28. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items received for consideration at this meeting.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Education Attainment Improvement Board will take place on Tuesday 26 January 2016 commencing at 3.30 pm.