



Dear Parents and Carers,

8th January 2018

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I hope that you had a good break and had some time to rest. I hope the coming year is a positive one for you and your children.

We enjoyed two staff professional development days last week, working together to look at high quality teaching, learning and assessment in our school and across the Samuel Ward Academy Trust. This kind of development really helps teachers to grow in their expertise and is a key part of development of our school.

We underwent a full review of our school from the Academy Trust in December, where 8 colleagues from other schools and external consultants came to review every aspect of our school. This is a very rigorous process, and involves lots of lesson observations, meetings and discussions with staff and students. I am delighted to tell you that the review outcomes were very positive, with our school being judged by the team to be very solidly good. This is rapid improvement from our Ofsted inspection last year and validates the excellent results achieved in the summer. We have high aspirations for even further improvement, with a commitment to excellent education for all. We can only do this with your continued support and I wanted to thank you for the support you give. If any of you would like to read our full review report you are more than welcome to email me for a copy.

Just a reminder to please make sure that your child has the correct equipment for school and uniform - including appropriate shoes. We have made huge strides with this and it really makes a difference in the classroom with time all focused on learning.

We have our Academic Tutoring Day on Thursday 11th January, if you have not yet made your appointment please do make sure you have booked in for a meeting with your child's tutor to enable targets for the coming term to be set.

As ever please contact me if you have any concerns at all, on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk or book an appointment through my PA Gill Mitchell on GMitchell@castlemanor.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

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