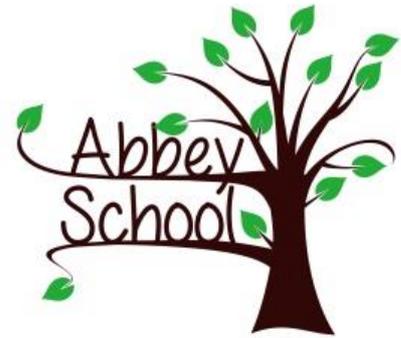


Abbey School

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Kimberworth
Rotherham
S61 2RA



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12th November 2015

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this finds you well. I am sure you know from ongoing school news that Abbey continues to improve and that our pupils are now making the good progress they deserve. We have asked heads from other outstanding schools to test this view and so far they all agree that Abbey is improving rapidly and should continue to do so. We are expecting Ofsted to come to look at how we are doing in the near future and we hope they find the same good news story!

For some time now, we have been talking to other schools in Rotherham about working better together. These include schools in our Learning Community such as Winterhill but also other special schools, particularly Hilltop and Kelford. The Department for Education's view is that the future for Abbey School **must** be for it to join a Multi-Academy Trust, and in Rotherham there are no other special schools with academy status.

Following lengthy and detailed discussion with governors and leaders at Hilltop and Kelford, we believe the best solution is for Abbey to join their developing Multi-Academy Trust. This will give us a stronger and more informed voice as a special educational needs provider, and will also allow the future of Abbey School to be shaped by the needs of children and families in Rotherham.

Abbey School is in a strong position now, and our partnership working with Hilltop and Kelford tells us that they share our values and vision for doing the best we can for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The partnership will be one of equals and will be guided by the principles that have served the IEB and leaders at Abbey well over the past year. This means we will keep what works well for our schools, and only make the changes which will lead to better services for our children. We will continue to be the advocate for children and families that we have the privilege to serve.

We hope parents and carers now have full confidence in the decision making of the IEB and school leaders, though we do not want to take this for granted. We are therefore planning an open discussion meeting for parents and carers to ask more questions about this development, should they wish to.

The event will be held at Abbey School on 26th November 2015 at 4pm.

If you are interested in attending this event, can you please ensure you contact the school office to confirm your attendance?

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Marshall".

Phil Marshall
Chair of the IEB

Luci Windle
Headteacher

Inspire.... Believe.... Achieve....