

Dear Parents and Carers

School Improvement Update

I'm writing on behalf of the school's Local Academy Committee - a small group of unpaid representatives drawn from a range of backgrounds. We include parent governors and others from the community, including local businesses and wider experience in education. What we share is a common goal: each one of us is committed to do everything we can to get the best for every student at Fowey River.

Just over a year ago, an inspection team visited the Academy and, though they praised students' Personal Development, they judged that, overall, the school required improvement. The Leading-Edge Academies Partnership, our Trust, quickly pulled together a rapid improvement plan which was agreed with the DfE Schools' South West Regional Director. Current improvement work includes the direct involvement of the Trust CEO together with day-to-day support and advice from two experienced and successful school leaders.

To keep in touch with developments, the Local Academy Committee meets regularly with the headteacher and senior leaders to support and challenge their work. We make individual monitoring visits and regularly meet with groups of students to hear their views on how the school is moving forward.

The purpose of this letter is consequently to update you on progress this year. Here's a summary of what has happened:

- The number of students on roll continues to rise steadily.
- Student attendance remains above national average.
- Staff want to work at the Academy – in a year when, nationally, teachers are difficult to recruit, the school has successfully appointed new teachers in English, maths and science ready for next term.
- The curriculum has been developed and lessons now have a clear and consistent structure so students know what to expect, what they are expected to remember and can talk about what they've learned. Students have told us that they like this and that lessons are better. They like HEAPS, SLANTs and Magic 5. (if you don't know what these are, now's the moment to ask your children!) Where teachers want to improve a part of their teaching, they are offered coaching support and video examples of good practice. There is also a real push to understand and meet individual needs in planning lessons.



- Behaviour policy has been sharpened and students have told us that, though behaviour is not perfect, it is better. Senior leaders also tell us that the on-call system for poor behaviour is used less often. There are now fewer suspensions.
- The school now tracks student progress much more carefully and offers individual catch-up support where necessary with use of the National Tutoring Programme for students in maths and English.
- Following award of national funding before lockdown, money has now been released and improvement work begun. By Summer 2025, the school should have a refurbished Tower Block with new science labs, roof and windows.

There are many good signs here, but the job is not done. We will, of course, be asking the school to give us a full analysis of results this summer to see what progress has been made. At that point, the impact of improvement work will become clearer and, no doubt, future challenges for continuing improvement will emerge.

As part of continuing consultation, you may be aware that the Trust CEO recently held an open Parent Forum meeting. It was a small but heartening group which we hope will thrive. It was a good dialogue: many improvements were recognised but clear and timely information home remains an issue for the school to address.

Thank you for your continuing support. On a personal level, I do hope that your child/children at Fowey are happy and progressing well. If it appeals, we'd value more parental involvement in taking the school forward so, if you would like to know more about how you could be involved, either in the Parents' Forum or as a governor, please get in touch with cgrist@fracademy.org

Yours sincerely,



Chris Williams

Chair

Fowey River Local Academy Committee



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