



# EASINGWOLD SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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30 November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers/Staff/Pupils,

As you are aware, the situation at Easingwold School is changing rapidly. I believe it is important that you all are kept up to date and this letter outlines the current situation.

To recap, following the Ofsted inspection on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Easingwold School was judged 'inadequate' and placed into special measures. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) wrote to me on 3 November 2016 confirming Outwood Grange Academies Trust (OGAT) have been appointed as the academy sponsor and, for the past few weeks, OGAT have been preparing for their integration into the school and conducting their due diligence.

OGAT's due diligence was very thorough and they remain confident that they can turn Easingwold into an outstanding school; their track record clearly demonstrates their capability to do this. However, the physical condition of the school is an issue. OGAT believe there are a number of significant problems which need addressing before they would be in a position to sponsor our school.

In an attempt to resolve this, a meeting took place yesterday morning attended by OGAT, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) the RSC, my Vice Chair (Jon Wright) and myself where the condition of the buildings were discussed in detail. We agreed that an independent survey of the school buildings will be commissioned immediately to determine what is required to make the school fit for purpose and to understand the financial implications for all parties.

I can assure you that all parties are actively trying to resolve this as quickly and fairly as possible. But, until the scope of the problem and the remediation costs are determined, neither OGAT nor NYCC can commit to fund these, especially as each also has a duty of care to all of the other schools for which they are responsible. Realistically this is unlikely to be resolved until early 2017.

As a result of this situation I have some important announcements to make:

- OGAT have advised they will delay their integration into the school until the summer term 2017 to minimise disruption to exams. Given the circumstances, I believe this is the right decision and I would like to thank OGAT for agreeing to this delay as I know they are very disappointed.
- With this in mind, I have asked Mr Pritchard and Mr Brockwell to stay at the school until next summer and I am delighted to announce they have agreed. The Governing Body have been very impressed by their work to date and on behalf of everyone at the school I would like to thank them. This guarantees a period of stability and we will also be able to access the support of the Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance during this period. I am also pleased to report that OGAT will continue to provide support to the school. I am confident with these arrangements in place the school will continue to make rapid improvements.

- Given the delay in OGAT formally sponsoring the school, the implementation of the new behaviour policy will now be deferred until the summer term and the new school uniform will be introduced in September 2017. However, low level disruption in classrooms, misbehaviour in general including not wearing the current school uniform will not be acceptable so could I please ask all parents/carers and students to commit to this as it will make such a positive impact.

You will all be sent regular updates on the progress being made by the school including developments with regard to us becoming an academy.

I'd like to finish by saying the past few weeks have clearly demonstrated the level of passion and feeling people have for Easingwold School and to harness this I will be arranging for an election for new parent governors. I ask that everyone now gives their full support to Mr Pritchard and Mr Brockwell and concentrates on the education of our pupils.

Yours faithfully

**Neil Hawkins**  
**Chair of Governors**