

26 February 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

During the half term break you may have seen press coverage on staffing issues at Maltings Academy.

Many of you will remember that just over three years ago the former school, The John Bramston School was placed in special measures by Her Majesty's Inspectors. During that time a number of parents chose to send their children to other schools both within and outside of Witham. The subsequent effect is that the income to Maltings Academy has seen a steady, but significant reduction over the last two years.

For an Academy which was in special measures less than two years ago the progress that has been made in standards across the board has been both dramatic and exceptional. This is not just in GCSE and 'A' levels, but also significantly in terms of behaviour and attendance. I would like to reassure you that our overriding priority at Maltings Academy remains to continue to provide all our students with the best possible education.

I would just like to confirm that we have recently been involved in consultations with staff and professional associations about a revised organisational structure which will enable us to continue our sustained improvement in standards and at the same time reduce our operating costs. This is a necessary measure for any organisation operating in an ever changing world, although I do realise that it creates genuine anxiety, primarily among our staff, but also among students, parents and the local community.

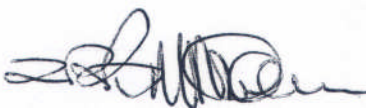
These measures are currently being considered by the Board of Governors and when I have more detailed information about the steps to be taken I will let you know.

You may have also seen it reported that our Principal, Mike O'Sullivan, has been appointed Headteacher of one of the largest secondary schools in Essex. Together with our sponsor, the Academies Enterprise Trust, governors will be working very hard to ensure a smooth transition in appointing a successor for September.

Looking to the future, work is now well underway on a brand new Academy to be constructed at a cost well in excess of £25 million and which promises to be a massive investment in the future of Maltings Academy. When completed in September 2011 it will be the one of the best centres for learning in secondary education in the region.

I look forward to writing to you again soon to keep you in touch with developments at Maltings Academy. In the meantime may I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Frank Butler
Chair of the Board of Governors