

An early in the academic year Ofsted inspection in September finally restored the school to where we know it should have been all along. A tremendous amount of time, effort and focus went into the preparation for the inspection and I would like to pay tribute to all those involved; the Students, Parents, Teachers, Staff, Senior Leadership Team and fellow Governors. It was a real team effort from all parties and great to hear the many positive comments Ofsted gave us in their feedback.

Going forward it is however vital to use this as a platform to build on and strive to achieve an "Excellent" rating across the board next time we are inspected. This will be no mean feat for a fully inclusive and non-selective school such as Furze Platt but is a worthy goal to work towards despite the ever changing assessment goalposts.

Our rationalised committee structure appears to be working well and these committees together with working groups and full governing body meetings have had very full agendas this year.

There have also been many successes to celebrate which you will have seen reported in the weekly newsletters and there is much for us all to be very proud of within the Furze Platt community.

The new building project is really exciting for the school with planning permission applications underway and a project start date of March 2018. The end result should significantly benefit students with some excellent modern facilities and help the school to be even more successful.

This significant commitment of funds by RBWM is a clear reflection of the high regard in which the school continues to be held.

This building project is part of the schools masterplan and blueprint for the future and much work remains to be done and funds/grants raised to help give the students better facilities as well as maintain existing ones. It is important to remember that the main school infrastructure was built in the 1960's for circa 400 students.

Should you have any ideas or connections with businesses for grants/fundraising for the school do please get in touch and help us to build an even better school for our children.

Unfortunately due to funding cutbacks Governors have had to agree submission of a budget with a significant deficit for the 2017/18 academic year. Whilst this is far from ideal it is a nationwide problem and much hard work is going into focussing on costs so that the breadth and depth of the school's curriculum can be maintained.

As a result of prudence in previous years the school does have some reserves but without increases in Government funding there will undoubtedly be serious challenges ahead and difficult decisions to be made.

Thank you for your continued support.