

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am writing to introduce myself as the Chair of The East Manchester Academy Interim Management Board (IMB) and to explain a little about our purpose and how we have been working on to improve the experience for all students at TEMA.

The IMB was set up in March 2020 to replace the former governing body and secure the rapid improvements required, following the academy being placed in Special Measures by Ofsted in December 2019. The IMB reports to the Education and Leadership Trust Board and our work is also monitored by Ofsted and the Department for Education. The IMB will operate until June 2022, or until the academy is removed from special measures.

The IMB meet formally every three weeks and additional meetings also take place regularly to review and improve the quality of the curriculum, behaviour, personal development, provision for special educational needs and safeguarding. IMB members visit the academy every week to ensure we have a very thorough and detailed understanding of the work of the academy, the needs of the students and how well staff are meeting their needs. Further details about our work can be found on the governance page of the academy website.

The IMB is comprised of a team of five senior educational and safeguarding professionals, all of whom have successful experience of achieving school improvement. Collectively, we are responsible for ensuring the action plan for the academy is being implemented and advising on the eight areas for improvement identified in the inspection report.

Our overall aim is to ensure that your sons and daughters receive the highest quality of education in line with the academy vision to 'equip all students with the skills, abilities, attributes and qualifications to pursue a fulfilling career, contribute positively to their communities and be active, global citizens'

Since March 2020 we have been working very closely with staff and academy leaders to ensure that educational provision and pastoral care has been of the highest quality possible during the period of lockdown due to Covid 19, as well as supporting the preparations for the return to school full time for all students in September.

The summer term has presented many challenges for schools and I want to reassure you that the leadership team, staff and IMB members have been working hard to address these challenges and minimise disruption and the impact of lost learning time for your child. Most importantly we are confident that the academy will be safe for your child to return to in September because all guidance and requirements put in place by Public Health England, The Department of Education and Manchester City Council have been adhered to and implemented. I have been deeply impressed by the commitment of staff to supporting students in a variety of ways during this period and by the way in which students and parents have risen to the challenge to continue learning.

The academy will undergo Ofsted monitoring inspections each term during the period of special measures which will provide a helpful measure of the effectiveness of the improvement plan. As parents you can be assured that there is a very high level of scrutiny and oversight of the academy's work and that everything possible is being done to ensure TEMA will be judged to be officially a 'Good' school by the next full inspection.

It is very important that your views and experiences as parents are considered carefully and inform our improvement work. There are a variety of ways in which this is taking place including regular parents' surveys, parent forum meetings and your attendance at parents' evenings when there will

be opportunities to meet members of the IMB and provide feedback. Once the period of special measures is over, an academy committee or governing body will be re established and parent members will be elected to represent you in a governance capacity.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming year and want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the academy, your child's education and providing valuable feedback on your experiences.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona O'Sullivan

Chair of the Interim Education Board

The East Manchester Academy