



12th October 2015

Ref: SCu

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that your son/daughter has settled back into school life and is enjoying the new academic year at Tong.

I wanted to share some important information about the future of the school.

As you are aware, on the 29th and 30th April 2015, Tong High School was inspected by Ofsted. The report outlined areas for development but it also positively described the progress the school has made over the past few years, highlighting strengths and successes and the plans and strategies in place to address areas of weakness.

Whilst the judgement in most key areas was 'requires improvement', and leaders, managers and governors were assessed as having the capacity to secure improvement, one of the main categories, that of the achievement of pupils was judged inadequate, which meant the school overall had to be judged as 'inadequate – serious weakness'.

We can assure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure the best outcomes for our students. As the Ofsted report highlighted; *'Staff and governors care passionately for the welfare of students in their school.'*

It is DFE policy that any school which is in the Ofsted category of Serious Weakness or Special Measures will become an Academy and work with an Academy Trust as a Sponsor.

The Governors and I have agreed that the becoming an Academy provides the best opportunity for the school.

Academy Conversion

We have been working closely with the Regional Schools' Commissioner to identify the best sponsor for our school and Governors have approved the recommendation of working with Tauheedul Education Trust (TET). TET runs an outstanding, growing network of faith and non-faith primary and secondary schools in the North, Midlands and London. It also develops education partnerships and has delivered successful school improvement support to many community schools in the region. Additionally, TET has worked with over a thousand senior and middle leaders and approximately 100 community schools from the North West through its leadership programmes, accredited by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

The exciting partnership with TET, as part of its non-faith division, will mean Tong High School benefits from a national network of support and development opportunities, as we continue to improve educational standards.

Hamid Patel CBE, CEO of TET, says; *“Educational excellence, service to local communities and aspirational leadership are at the heart of everything we do.”*

“We believe that every child is unique and we look forward to collaborating with the Tong team to ensure each and every student achieves their potential and goes on to university or a career of their choice.”

The sponsor has acknowledged the school’s positive learning culture and will work in partnership with the whole community to add capacity so that Tong can improve student outcomes quickly in order to achieve academic excellence.

There is now a formal process to go through around the conversion and timescales can vary depending on schools’ individual circumstances.

We will keep you informed throughout the process and we will be producing FAQs on our website. If you have any specific worries or queries please contact your child’s Student Progress Leader or Deputy Student Progress Leader.

We will also soon be organising meetings for parents/carers and students to explain the process of converting to academy status, how TET will work with Tong High School and the next steps.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the school moves forward for the benefit of all our students.

Kind Regards,

Mr. S. Curran, Head teacher