



4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I write to formally thank you for your outstanding support during our recent Ofsted inspection.

The galvanised commitment of all parents and staff ensured that inspectors saw a great school that does a superb job for children every day. What made me especially proud is that the standard of teaching, pupil behaviour and relationships between staff/pupils was the same as it is every day - superb! Many parents submitted honest feedback on what we do well and what they feel we need to work on in order to be even better. This feedback was incredibly useful for inspectors as well as school leaders. Thank you to all parents who responded to the questionnaire.

I am not yet able to share the outcome of the inspection with you as the report has to go through several stages of quality assurance with Ofsted before it is released.

In the meantime I felt it was appropriate to write to you and outline the process.

DEC was inspected under the new Section 8 of the Education Inspection Framework (a substantially different approach by Ofsted and released for schools to prepare for in May 2019!). This is what we call a 'short inspection' and does not involve regrading the school's rating. Section 8 inspections look back at the school's previous inspection grading and focuses on checking that the quality of education, especially the curriculum, remains good. We were hoping for a Section 5 inspection so that regrading would occur, but that will now happen next time around.

You will be aware that in recent years, the quality of teaching, pupil behaviour and examination results at DEC have improved significantly. So much so that we have received recognition from Birmingham City Council and other national organisations for our improvements, and now for the support we provide to other schools.

We do know that we can expect a full Section 5 inspection within the next one to two years which will enable the school to be re-graded against the Ofsted inspection framework, where we are determined to secure the very best outcome.

For now, we will continue to deliver our development priorities for 19-20 as they are aligned with themes in the new framework and the initial feedback inspectors provided.

That said, what will never change at DEC is the commitment to always doing what we believe (and now what we know, given the outstanding examination results we achieve) is right for the children, their education and their future life chances.

So now that the dust has settled from the inspection itself, I wanted to provide a brief update and thank you for your unwavering support of DEC and our children.



I will write to parents again when our inspection report is ready to be published.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Dunn', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr M Dunn  
Head Teacher

