



TERMINATION WARNING NOTICE

PARENT LETTER

21st July 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I am sorry to be writing so soon after yesterday's letter updating you with the really good news about the recent Ofsted inspection of our trust, Astrea.

As I said yesterday, this made clear Ofsted's view that Astrea is a strong and improving trust, making a real and sustained difference to our schools, including Astrea Academy Woodfields. Indeed, in their feedback about Astrea Academy Woodfields, the lead inspector from Ofsted shared how impressed they were by the purposefulness of the changes being brought about.

This builds on the progress that was already showing in the inspection that Ofsted carried out on Woodfields in January earlier this year. We were pleased that the inspection of Woodfields showed significant progress since the inspection of the predecessor school Balby Carr Community Academy, with improvements in all categories except Behaviour and Attitudes, as the school had been particularly hit by the attendance and exclusions challenges that schools up and down the land have experienced post-COVID. In all other categories we saw improvements, with Quality of Education, Personal Development, and Leadership and Management all judged as Requiring Improvement, whilst our Sixth Form was recognised as Good.

I am very proud of the rapid progress we are making at Woodfields, and my commitment to Woodfields becoming the best school in Doncaster is as strong as it ever has been. I'm confident that when Ofsted visit us again to check on our progress they will see how much further forward we have moved already, and so it was really encouraging to have such positive feedback from Ofsted during their review of Astrea more widely.

During this most recent visit, children talked to inspectors about the transformation in behaviour, and staff commented that they had rediscovered their love of teaching. This is all extremely encouraging and shows that we are absolutely moving in the right direction.

However, when a school is graded as "inadequate", it automatically comes under increased scrutiny from the Department for Education. The formal processes around that increased level of monitoring are now under way, and as part of that, the Department for Education has published what's called a Termination Warning Notice. There are often misunderstandings about what it means to have a Termination Warning Notice, but the most important thing to say is that this does not mean Astrea Academy Woodfields will be closing.

Instead, it means that we will – quite rightly – be under very close monitoring and scrutiny by the Government to make sure we are making the changes that are needed and doing so quickly. Once changes have been made to the satisfaction of the Department for Education, then the Termination Warning Notice will be lifted, as had been the case with many other schools around the country.

ASTREA ACADEMY WOODFIELDS
Weston Road, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 8ND
01302 312140

Principal: Mr David Scales



As part of this process, we have to submit a school improvement plan to the Department for Education, which we did yesterday. We believe that the Department will have confidence in this plan – and especially so given the recent positive news from Ofsted – and that Woodfields will be recognised for further significant progress at its next inspection. This very much reflects similar improvements in other Astrea schools in the region.

Thank you again for your ongoing support to Woodfields and the work we are doing to make these important improvements. As ever, if you have any questions, please do get in touch in the usual way through the school office.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Scales', written in a cursive style.

David Scales Principal

