



10 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, an Ofsted inspection took place at Reddish Vale High School (RVHS) recently. Thank you to those of you who responded to the parent survey and to everyone for supporting our students during the inspection.

The Ofsted judgement on RVHS is that it is inadequate in two areas: Quality of Education and Leadership & Management, and therefore has an overall judgement of Inadequate. As a result, the school is to be placed in Special Measures.

Whilst we had been expecting Ofsted to visit the school since January, we were not expecting them to find the school Inadequate.

Our core purpose is to deliver high quality education to all our students and this rating does not reflect our ambition for RVHS. The Trust's top priority has been to support the school in achieving a Good rating from Ofsted; that remains the case. Our new CEO, Ms Kim Earle, had already put in place a Trust Improvement and Support Plan to address all the issues now identified by Ofsted. However, these strategies – which were praised by Ofsted in their feedback - had not been in place long enough to have the desired impact before inspection.

We are mindful of the progress that was made from RVHS's original Inadequate rating to Requiring Improvement in January 2022. However, inspectors did not believe sufficient progress has been made since that inspection and have now listed a number of areas for improvement.

Those areas of the school which are now rated as Inadequate have not become inadequate overnight. We have therefore taken further decisive action at all levels to address this judgement and support the school as it moves forward.

Members and Trustees of the South Manchester Learning Trust fully support the CEO in bringing about these changes and will continue to ensure that swift improvements are made.

We have already made changes in leadership at the school. Headteacher Mrs Linda Hanson has left the school to pursue other opportunities. Mr Darren Moroney, Deputy Headteacher at Altrincham College with particular expertise in Quality of Education, is now Acting Headteacher at RVHS and will continue to lead the school with the full support of the Senior Leadership Team and CEO. We will continue to review staffing, recruitment and retention at the school to ensure that students receive the best quality of education.

The Trust Board met shortly after the inspection and resolved to bring in new trustees to strengthen our Board. A new Trustee had already been appointed for September 2024 with significant experience in school leadership and two Parent Trustees also come on board this term. We will be carrying out a further review of governance and have already made changes at a local level. We are

CEO: Ms K Earle

Altrincham College, Green Lane, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 8QW

South Manchester Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England with Company number 08137701



pleased that existing parent and staff governors at RVHS will work with us to deliver the improvements needed.

We will also continue to work closely with staff at Altrincham College and with external experts to further support our improvement journey. This will build upon work already started at RVHS since January. We will take all action necessary to ensure that we make rapid progress towards improving education at this school.

I understand that you will be disappointed in this judgement and I wish to emphasise that delivering a high quality education for our students is our top priority. I hope that you will support Mr Moroney and other senior leaders in ensuring that we deliver for the people who matter most: our students.

If you would like to discuss further any of the issues raised in this letter, Mr Moroney, senior leaders, the CEO and myself will be hosting a drop-in session at the school on Thursday 12th September 2024 between 3.30pm and 7pm. You can also email us: ceo@altrinchamcollege.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Margo Kane

Chair of the Trust