

PAST/BRE/SHE
Date: 8 October 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with reference to the article in today's Chronicle regarding a potential 'shake up' or 'merger' in Crewe, to use the words of the reporter.

The paper reports that, whilst standards in Crewe Secondary schools are improving, many parents are choosing to send their children out of Crewe at the age of 11.

Whilst I cannot deny that a proportion of parents do, indeed, look to schools outside Crewe, what I can say is that standards at Ruskin are strong and they are constantly improving. Our 2014 examination results bear this out: we had some stunning, individual results that would match any school, and the progress that our students made in English and in Maths were in line with the national average. Our behaviour is good, our expectations remain high and our students say they feel happy and safe. In fact, our new parents always comment on the 'feel' and the ethos of our school and this is something special to Ruskin. I would urge any current or prospective parent/carer to come in at any point and ask for a tour round so that you can see, for yourself, what actually happens within our walls!

I would be the first to say that Ruskin is not yet as good as it needs to be – and this is because I want every student to receive an outstanding education. Nonetheless, I do not think that the slant portrayed in the report is fair or accurate. The parents, students, staff and Governors of this school have the capacity, the interest and the strength to work together to make this a truly outstanding school and that is what we will do. This will be for the benefit of the children who attend this school.

Whilst discussions have certainly taken place recently and in the distant past about the future of education in Crewe, Ruskin and its Governing Body are not planning any merger or closure. Any plans for education in Crewe would be part of a much wider brief, involving a range of educational establishments and employers. For us, therefore, it is business as usual.

I have spoken to every student in school today so that they are aware of this article. I have advised them to read it, to talk to you as parents/carers and to respond to it if they feel they want to. We have also talked about our shared responsibility to ensure that we make this the best school in Crewe and one of the best across Cheshire East.

I will update you if I have any further news to share but, in the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact me. Email is quickest and most direct – my email is brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely



E S Brett
Headteacher