

Helena Boast
The Thomas Lord Audley School
Monkwick Road,
Colchester
CO2 8NJ

Date: 22nd September 2016

Dear Helena

GCSE results day this year from a Local Authority perspective was interesting given the changes in assessment framework and performance tables this year we collected the percentage of young people achieving A*-C grades in English and Maths. These outcomes indicate that 66% of Essex pupils achieved this threshold compared to 61% in 2015. This appears to place us 3 % above the rest of the eastern region. The outcomes for disadvantaged also improved significantly with the gap closing from 28% to 25%.

The purpose in writing to you today is to offer particular congratulations on the outcomes that The Thomas Lord Audley School achieved this summer. We note the huge improvement in the percentage of learners achieving A*-C GCSE grades in both English and mathematics. More than a twenty three percent increase in 2016 together with an impressive improvement in the Attainment8 figure means that The Thomas Lord Audley School is the most improved Essex school in 2016. The results compare very favourably with similar schools and also with some schools that have a more able cohort. These increases will offer the learners greater choice in their next steps and, as a result, improved life-chances over time. They will also give all stakeholders confidence in the strategies adopted by leaders in the school.

It is worth noting that these improvements have been made in exceptionally challenging circumstances given the exceptionally low ability on entry and the challenges of leading a small school.

The improvements in outcomes are a credit to the strategic leadership of the school and the rigour with which learners were prepared for the examinations which they undertook. The improvement since 2014 and 2015 puts the school firmly on track towards further successful Ofsted judgements in the future.

I am sure that your Standards and Excellence Commissioner, Nicola Pruden, will be in touch in the near future to arrange a meeting to discuss how these results were achieved in order to share successful strategies with other schools.

I suspect the changes with which you have contended to achieve your success this year will not be at an end. We will do all we can to assist you going forward. As a school helping to maintain the continued improvements in education for the children of Essex I would like to say thank you and ask that you pass on my thanks to all of your staff. Without their dedication and hard work students would not have experienced the success they have this summer.

I look forward to personally seeing you at the autumn term Local Authority Secondary Head teachers meeting on Friday 23rd September 2016 at The Ivy Hill Hotel.

Congratulations and best wishes for further success in the school year ahead.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. A. Wright." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'W'.

Lyn Wright
Lead Secondary Standards and Excellence Commissioner