



29 November 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

We underwent our second Ofsted Monitoring Inspection two weeks ago. This was one of a routine series of visits which take place three times each year as a result of being placed in Special Measures. The purpose of the visits is to determine whether the school has made progress on the key issues identified by the original inspection team and whether there has been progress overall.

I am pleased that the inspection team found that the school has made good progress overall since the Ofsted Inspection of December 2010, and good progress since the Monitoring Visit earlier this year in May. Their report highlights where improvements have been made and where more work needs to be done. The judgement statements below are taken from the letter sent to the school. A full copy of the letter is available on our website ([www.archwayschool.net](http://www.archwayschool.net)) and the Ofsted website ([www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)) or you may read a hard copy in our Main Reception or the Library.

Progress since the last section 5 inspection on the areas for improvement:

- Raise students' attainment in all subjects to meet or exceed national levels, both at Key Stage 4 and in the sixth form – satisfactory.
- Improve the proportion of good or better teaching across the school – good.
- Improve the impact of leaders at all levels on raising achievement – good.
- Ensure that the governing body holds all leaders and managers to account - good.

Overall judgement:

- Progress since being subject to special measures – good
- Progress since the Monitoring Visit in May – good

If anyone has any queries on progress or the Ofsted process then members of the Senior Team and the Chair of Governors will be available at the end of school on Tuesday 6 December in Main Reception from 3.30pm to 4.15pm.

I would like to assure you of our continued commitment to addressing all areas of the original report and am grateful as always for your support.

### School Uniform

Following feedback from students and parents, we are considering changing the school uniform and would be interested to hear your views. We have a mock up of how the new uniform might look in Main Reception at school and a photograph on the school website.

Any change in uniform would have a long lead-in time: we would expect that all new Year 7 children joining in September 2012 would be in the new uniform and that existing students currently in Years 7, 8 and 9 would change as they grow out of the old uniform or by September 2013. Students currently in Years 10 and 11 would not be affected.

If you have any views on the suggestion please do email us at [uniform@archwayschool.net](mailto:uniform@archwayschool.net). There is no suggestion that students have blazers.

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## Free School Meals

Below is some information which has been circulated to me about Free School Meals.

***Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money***

***Register now to make sure we don't miss out***

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

**For every child registered Archway School gets £488 this year.**

With this money we could maintain some of the provision which would otherwise have to be cut. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help towards individual music tuition.

**Please register before Christmas to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out.**

### How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list below.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, contact Student Services or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals).
3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal and the school gets £488 extra.
4. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets £488 extra.

### Do you qualify?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Students can also register for Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves.

***No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.***

If you have any further queries, please contact Student Services. I hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours faithfully

Colin Belford  
Headteacher

Pam Swindell  
Chair of Governors