

Date: 5th October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday 4th October it was our pleasure to visit Kibworth Mead Academy for The Mead Educational Trust (TMET) Executive Team away day. The purpose of these days is for us to know our schools well and to engage with stakeholders, finding out about both the challenges and aspirations they have. We spoke to staff, parents and students, visited lessons, completed a site tour, had lunch with the students, attended assemblies, met our counterparts, took part in a staff briefing and attended a senior leadership team meeting. We felt very welcomed by the school community and were grateful for the open and honest way that people engaged with us.

On the whole students told us that they felt happy and safe and knew who to go to if they needed help. They felt behaviour had improved over the past five weeks and was best when the behaviour system in school was applied consistently, and we would agree with them. We witnessed some impeccable behaviour around school. Students were punctual and very self-regulating, especially during breaks and lesson changes. The school has behaviour as a priority for improvement and I hope students continue to see progress in this area. Students reported to us that there have been huge improvements with toilet provision, and they feel much better about the timely monitoring and supervision of the use of toilets.

We spoke extensively to members of staff. They felt that the school was improving rapidly. They said they were trusted to do their job and were well supported both within the school and by the TMET team. They also reported that behaviour was improving and that the school environment felt much calmer. They trusted the new leadership of the school and commented on the well planned, sustainable approach to school improvement. Students spoke very positively about their effective relationship with teachers, leading them to make good progress in their learning.

Parents commented that there are not many school visits, trips and extra-curricular activities. We have been assured by the school that much planning has been underway this half term, imminently to be shared with students and parents. Parents also talked to us about exams, and we explained that much work is going on both within school and across TMET on the curriculum, assessment, moderation and revision. We are confident that the already very strong GCSE results at the school will be even better in the years to come.

TMET is fully committed to modernising the building and provision over the next three years. During the site visit we were able to see areas of school that need urgent improvements, such as the science classrooms. Over the next 12 months you will start to see improvements in this area as well as the toilets, IT and around the grounds. Some students talked to us about sports facilities, and we have agreed to centrally fund some gym equipment which will be free to use. This will be available as soon as the equipment arrives and is installed.

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There was much positivity around the new catering provision. Students were happy with the split lunches and felt they had time to eat and socialise. We all had a school lunch with the students and agreed that it had improved since last year. We did notice some teething problems around the flexibility of food choices and our Director of Operations will be communicating with the catering company on the areas for improvement.

I understand that there has been some concern in the community since the publication of the letter from Department for Education (DfE) stating that it reserves the right to terminate the school's relationship with TMET. This letter is issued as a matter of routine when a school that is part of a multi academy trust goes into a category of concern following an Ofsted visit. I want to assure you all that TMET has submitted substantial evidence to the DfE outlining our commitment to Kibworth Mead and our capacity to support the school to improve. Our day at Kibworth has demonstrated to us that, like TMET, the Kibworth community is absolutely committed to the school being the best it can possibly be. We very much want to work in partnership with you to make sure this is a reality.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Ridley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Ridley

Chief Executive Officer, TMET

On behalf of The Mead Educational Trust Executive Team