

## **Update on progress relating to the Tudor Grange Review**

We first met on the 13th August when the remit of the review was clarified. It was agreed that we were not there to judge whether Tudor Grange Academy (TGA) should move from a 3 to 2 tier education system. However we were there to clarify the proposals, the implications for the rest of the Borough and what support could be given to the relevant Ward Councillors and residents.

We agreed to interview expert witnesses. All interviewees had pre-prepared questions but the opportunity was there for more input.

Head of Learning and Achievement John Edwards was interviewed on the 12th September and he was very forthcoming on the process that TGA had adopted. We also met with senior representatives of TGA on 3rd October.

We will be meeting Karen Lumley MP as she has received much correspondence from constituents.

As you are aware there were 100's of signatures on a petition that was organised by Councillor R. Blake who also it is believed attended several school meetings. The school serves most of her ward. We shall therefore interview Cllr Blake.

We are conducting our review in an apolitical manner and making sure that we achieve cross party consensus at meetings, in keeping with good scrutiny. However, we wanted to provide representatives of the other group represented on the Council with a chance to speak on this item. The Redditch Democratic Alliance has therefore been invited to send a representative to attend an interview.

We will be sending a questioner to Councillors in Greenlands, Astwood Bank and Feckenham, Headless Cross and Oakenshaw, Central and West. We have chosen to focus on Councillors representing these wards because children and young people living in these wards are in the catchment area for TGA.

We will also be asking Tudor Grange Academy for a meeting with their School Council or similar.

As this is a short, sharp review it is our intention to report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24th November.

Councillor P. Witherspoon (10/10/14)