

“Embedding excellence”

CABOT LEARNING FEDERATION CHIEF EXECUTIVE STEVE TAYLOR RESPONDS TO JOHN CABOT ACADEMY OFSTED INSPECTION

John Cabot Academy had its first Ofsted visit since 2009 in June, when inspectors arrived without notice.

After spending two days at the academy, the team found that the school’s overall effectiveness had declined, and rated JCA as ‘requiring improvement’, although the inspectors recognised that teaching and learning and academic standards remained good.

Their concerns related to student behaviour, effectiveness of leadership and management and Post 16 provision.

CLF Chief Executive Steve Taylor said: “The inspection outcome is hugely disappointing for all concerned. There is a great deal of passion for John Cabot Academy among the staff that work there, who have high expectations for their school.

“GCSE outcomes for this summer are projected to remain positive and Post 16 outcomes are likely to improve. Nevertheless, for current pupils and those about to join in Year 7, we are confident that the excellent standards for which John Cabot Academy has become known will be re-established quickly and that the academy will emerge from this difficult period even stronger.

“We have undertaken decisive action since the inspection took place to address the immediate concerns about behaviour. This has included a review of systems and a re-clarification of behavioural expectations for all, which has led to swift improvements in the short term.

“As the inspection report notes, the academy leadership has been proactive in recent months in revising and implementing improvement plans both in the main school and in Post 16, and these are having a demonstrable impact.

“A new Principal will take up his position after the summer; he has been involved in the improvement planning that has taken place since the inspection and is well placed, together with the rest of the leadership team, to hit the ground running in September.”