

Open letter to University Academy Keighley (Formerly Greenhead High School)

18th October 2011

Dear Chair of Governors

Demand for an END to systematic educational failure of our children at UAK

This open letter has been written in the hope that the children of Keighley receive a decent standard of education at University Academy Keighley, formerly Greenhead High School, which they desperately need and deserve. This school has been failing our children for generations and will continue in its dismal track record of failure and underachievement if the current leadership remains the same. The school results from already an unacceptably low level have dropped even further against the key government benchmark (5 A*-C including English and Maths) for a second consecutive year, rather than improving. Other schools in Bradford are improving UAK is going backwards! This makes UAK one of the worst schools in the country!

The minimum government floor standard is for 35 per cent of children to pass 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. Bradford's average is 44% while the National Average is 53%. The table below shows what University Academy Keighley has been achieving over the last few years. This school has been achieving below the minimum target set by the government; well below the Bradford average and even further below the National Average. Three-quarters of children at this school are not getting worthy qualifications at the end their full-time education

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	5-year average
23%	22%	33%	29%	26%	26%

As long as the current school leadership continues to maintain its historic stance of low aspirations and blaming the children, parents, their background and the community for low attainment, this school will never improve. It seems that everyone is to blame except the school and its leadership and the decision makers who have responsibility for spending the millions that is allocated for educating our children.

Rewarding Failure

The continued low attainment despite a new building and a new name for the school should not surprise anyone since those in positions of leadership and responsible for endemic failure for many years were – tragically for our children – re-appointed to continue the failure but on much higher salaries! Success should be rewarded, not failure! A superb opportunity to give this school a fresh start was missed.

We need real change that will deliver high academic standards for all children, not cosmetic treatment of endemic problems by changing buildings, names and mottos. The school's motto 'inspiring education' is a praise worthy aspiration but seems to have only inspired FAILURE and on a bigger scale. Perhaps it is for this reason that the 'Our Achievements' page on the school website shows 'no results or achievements'.

Time for change

It is time for real change in this school in order to transform the fortunes of our children and give them a passport for a prosperous future. The status quo cannot continue and real change is long overdue. We believe the community needs to take ownership of this school and demand change for the better. For your information, we shall be calling a meeting to discuss these issues with other parents and the wider community.

We hope you will consider all the points that have been raised carefully and give them due consideration in your response.

Yours sincerely

Concerned UAK Parents

Please send all correspondence to uakparents@hotmail.co.uk and also to register for when meeting will be held.