



Governors thank Mr Byers and wish him well after 32 years in the profession and the last 7 at Framwellgate

Mr Byers became Headteacher in September 2017



Here is a photograph in his first few weeks when Steve Cram opened the new sports hall. Things started to change as soon as he was appointed:-

- A new mission statement was devised with the help of staff and governors.
- A new school uniform was designed.

- New signage and school colours introduced.
- Curriculum changes were made.
- Changes to assessment and reporting.
- School Development plans were detailed and focused on continual improvement.

New School Building

Mr Byers worked tirelessly for a new school building.

He kept the issue in the public eye by using the local press and television news. Here he is, in this photograph taken in the snow by the Northern Echo, where he explained



that the school buildings were inadequate. He worked with Mary Foy, MP for Durham City, who raised this issue and named Framwellgate School in the House of Commons. It was this continual pressure which led to such a great result for the school earlier this year.

COVID put massive pressures on school leadership. Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) required staff training and collaboration.

A range of **measures were needed to mitigate against Covid-19.** The organisation of year group bubbles, controlled transition between lessons, changes to the timing of the school day and the wearing of masks in lessons all needed to be introduced and managed.

Thanks to Mr Byers for leading the school through this hugely challenging time.

Ofsted Inspections

Mr Byers moved the school from Requires Improvement to GOOD

June 2018 – Requires Improvement

Sixth Form, student behaviour and leadership were all rated Good. Inspectors recognised that Mr Byers had brought “much needed drive and ambition to the school”. BUT the legacy of weak teaching was still holding the school back.

July 4 2019 – Monitoring Visit Still Requires Improvement

Another positive report, praising “the accelerated pace of improvement”. BUT – inspectors would not move the judgement to Good without the external results which the school achieved in August !

March 4 2021 – Remote Monitoring Visit

No grade given but very positive report which again showed a culture of continual improvement.

July 14-15 2021 – GOOD !!

This was not the ideal time for an inspection but even at the end of a long term, with tired staff, hot weather etc the move from R.I. to Good was finally achieved.

After 7 years.....

Mr Byers leaves the school in a far, far better state than when he arrived.

- He has moved the school on with his Byers Blogs, twitter feeds and his commitment to educational research and staff training.
- The school was rated 7th in the rankings of best state schools in the Northeast last term.
- Year 7 is over-subscribed, and the school roll is much larger than when he arrived.
- The new building is a huge achievement and will transform the school when it is built.
- Pastoral care and pupil welfare remain a strength of the school.

Thank you for everything you have done for Fram. All the very best and enjoy your retirement