

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re Recent Ofsted Report

Our Ofsted report is now available to read and parents may download a copy from our Academy website.

The inspection was very thorough and covered every aspect of the Academy. The judgements reflect the very high standards expected under the most recent Ofsted inspection framework and I am very happy that the education of young people in our care should be subjected to the most rigorous scrutiny.

I am pleased that Ofsted recognised that safeguarding procedures are “strong” and that “rigorous checking procedures are in place for child protection”. The report also notes that “pupils feel safe in the Academy”.

The report praises our broad and balanced curriculum and the way it supports moral, social and cultural development. During the inspection several areas were recognised as being particularly strong including the arts and performing arts as well as our teaching and learning model. New leaders in Science and Maths are aware of what they need to do to enact further improvement and are already beginning to have an impact on progress of students in these subjects. The report states that leaders in the Academy are aspirant and want to create a school where pupils thrive and they have brought about significant curriculum change since the last inspection to enable this to happen.

Regarding Transition I am pleased that the report states that “Transition between primary and secondary and between key stage 4 and post 16 is handled well” and as a result “pupils gain confidence quickly when they move across key stages”.

Our sixth form provision is very strong and is recognised as securely “good”. The report comments that “Leadership is effective and expectations of learners are high” and that students “make good progress” with the proportion of students who both improve and pass examinations being well above average. Outcomes for sixth form students are “good”.

With respect to progress between KS2 and KS4, and in particular the progress of students over 8 subjects (known as Progress 8), the report makes clear that we still have some work to do. I agree with this and although progress of students has improved significantly year on year it is not yet where we would like it to be. However we currently have a very strong team of teachers with subject leaders increasingly confident about the quality of teaching and learning in their departments. I strongly believe that we will continue to improve in this key performance measure and that this will be securely positive over the next couple of years.

The report also notes some inconsistency of practice in particular around the setting of homework. This is something that has also been brought to my attention by parents. This will be quickly addressed and after Easter we will publish the expected homework for all subjects on our website which I think will give parents a much greater transparency.

On a final point the report notes that there is occasional “low level” disruption such as off task chatter, in some lessons. The behaviour and attitude to learning of the vast majority of the young people in the Academy is exemplary, a fact testified to by the many visitors and letters we receive from outside providers. However under the new Ofsted framework students are expected to exhibit exemplary “learning behaviours” at all times and we will work with students and parents to take this next step over the coming months.

As the Lead Inspector said to me “The Academy has all the right things in place and the green shoots are beginning to appear”. I would agree with this statement and look forward to Ofsted returning in the next couple of years to recognise the progress we have made and the exemplary provision we aspire to for the young people in our care.

Please take the opportunity to read the report (available on our website) and I will be happy to discuss the report further at a special parents meeting to which you are invited arranged for 6 pm

on Monday 27th March. If you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch and thank you for your continued support for the Academy.

Yours faithfully

Mark Lovatt
Principal