



11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Outcome from our recent Ofsted inspection (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018)**

It is with great pleasure that I share the findings of our recent Ofsted inspection. Although the overall judgement is that the school still **Requires Improvement**, the report highlights the significant improvements which have been made since the last inspection, and particularly since September.

I am delighted that key aspects of our provision (the Sixth Form; pupils' behaviour; pastoral care; leadership and management) have now been judged **Good**, and that improvements have been noted across all areas. The arrangements for safeguarding have been judged to be **effective**.

Inspectors highlighted the following "**Strengths**:"

- The new headteacher, supported by a recently appointed and skilled senior team, has brought much-needed drive and ambition to the school. In a short period of time, they have tackled a significant number of weaknesses effectively.
- Pupils' behaviour, sixth form achievement and pupils' progress in English and mathematics have improved. The quality of teaching is also improving.
- Pupils behave very well around the school. Most are attentive in lessons and show respect for each other's opinions. Parents and pupils value the high level of support provided by the school's pastoral team
- The sixth form is good. Most students make strong progress in their chosen studies. They are well supported to go onto higher education, training or employment."

An inspection later this year might have allowed us to demonstrate stronger outcomes from this summer's GCSE and A Level results, but the overall judgement is fair. We have achieved a lot since September but have a lot still to do. Our aim is to ensure that all areas of our provision are judged **Outstanding** within two years.

Inspectors found that "the climate in the school is optimistic and aspirational" and I agree with them. By judging leadership and management to be good, they have recognised our capacity to bring about further improvement. They said, "Leaders are ambitious to improve pupils' progress rapidly. They have a detailed and accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses".

I would like to thank our staff, students, trustees and governors. They deserve huge credit for the positive attitudes they have shown and their willingness to embrace change. This positive report is a result of their hard work and commitment to the school. I am also grateful to my newly appointed senior leadership team for the positive impact they have had in such a short space of time.

We were overwhelmed by the support that parents and carers showed and I want to end this letter by thanking you for your support, not just during the period of the inspection. Inspectors commented on the number of Parent View and free text responses they received, anecdotally noting that it was more than they had seen in any school. The inspection report notes, "Nearly all parents who responded to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View, said that the school is well led. Many parents commented on how happy their children are at the school." The happiness of our students, as you know, is now a key part of our new ethos statement but this, and the quality of care and support we provide, have long been strengths of the school.

The full inspection report, which includes the areas identified for improvement, is available on our website now & Ofsted's own website later this week. There are more changes planned as we continue to address these areas for improvement and strive for outstanding provision across all aspects of our work, but this report confirms our excellent start. Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

Andy Byers  
Headteacher