

15th May 2015

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: recent Ofsted inspection

As you are aware we were inspected on 21st and 22nd April by a team from Ofsted (the Office for Standards in Education). A copy of the full report has now been made available on their website (www.ofsted.gov.uk) and we will also upload a copy onto our website. Paper copies are available in school for anyone who may wish to have one.

Ofsted found that the Academy has improved significantly since the last inspection and no longer requires special measures. The inspection team concluded that leadership & management, behaviour & safety and the sixth form are 'good' and that the quality of teaching and achievement of pupils requires improvement. Overall this means that the Academy has come out of special measures in just five terms.

The inspectors praised leaders at the Academy for their resilience and determination and also recognised that "governance from the sponsor Trust is contributing significantly to improvements at the academy through its high level of support and challenge for leaders". The positive changes were also noted by older students who were at the school before it became an Academy and they told inspectors that "the Academy is now a much better place to attend because of improved teaching and students' behaviour".

Whilst there is still work to do, inspectors' scrutiny of current students' work across the Academy shows that students are making rapid gains across different subjects. In particular, the report highlights that "students' achievement in English and mathematics has improved since the school became an academy".

The report also celebrates the improvement in attendance that has risen significantly from when the school first became an Academy and that students are proud of their Academy.

In addition to evaluating academic performance, the inspectors noted that students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted well through a suitable curriculum and extra-curricular activities and clubs.

Parents will be interested to know that inspectors found that students' behaviour in lessons and around the Academy is good and that students show courtesy to each other and to adults. Students say that they feel safe and well cared for.

It is particularly pleasing to note that the report shows that whilst students join our Academy with low attainment, a greater proportion are now making better than expected progress in English and mathematics because of the much improved teaching they receive.

The inspectors highlighted areas for further improvement, many of which we had already identified. I am confident that we have the drive and capacity to continue to move forward and make further progress.

I wish to thank the pupils and staff who have worked tremendously hard in order to bring about these significant improvements.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Ofsted report or the school's response to it, please contact me at the Academy.

Yours sincerely

Scott Hudson
Principal