



5th December 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Ofsted Report

I am delighted to inform you that I received our final Ofsted Report. We are very happy that Ofsted have recognised the significant improvements we have made in all areas. **Leadership and Management, Behaviour and Safety, the Sixth Form and the school's capacity to improve are now 'Good'**. I include below some of the highlights of the report.

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**The school has the following strengths**

"The new headteacher has brought about **rapid improvements to all aspects of the school's work**. She has established an environment in which all staff and students are valued and supported."

**"All leaders, staff and governors share a drive and ambition to ensure the success of every student. Consequently, teaching is improving quickly and students' progress is accelerating, particularly in English and in work-related subjects, where the standards reached are now above average."**

"Attendance has risen markedly to above average, and exclusions are now rare."

"Students behave well, have good attitudes to learning, feel safe and are willing to take on responsibilities."

"The school strongly supports students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. British values are promoted well."

"Governors now monitor the work of the school closely and provide a good balance of challenge and support to leaders."

"The sixth form has improved and is now good. New leaders have ensured that students are taught well and supported effectively. As a result, students make good progress and are well prepared for the next stage of their lives."

**Leadership and Management**

**"Staff and students have great respect for each other. There is a sense of common purpose in which all staff and students are helped to thrive and aspire to be their best. All fully subscribe to the school's motto: 'Aim high, work hard and be kind.'"**

**"Since the previous inspection, leaders, including governors, have ensured that students' behaviour and attitudes to learning have improved significantly. Inadequate teaching has been eradicated through a comprehensive training and coaching programme. By frequently checking on teaching and learning and holding teachers to account for their student's progress, the quality of teaching is continuing to improve. As a result, students' made markedly faster progress in the past year and continue to do so. This demonstrates the school's good capacity to improve."**

"No discrimination of any kind is tolerated. Leaders have introduced new systems for frequently checking on the progress of every student. **In this way leaders make sure that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed.**"



“The **good curriculum**, provided in partnership with other schools, offers students a wide range of choices suitable to their needs and interests. **It is enriched by many additional activities.**”

“Since the previous inspection, the school has worked hard with parents and carers to help them support their children’s learning. **Consequently, they know how well their children are learning and behaving** and know what they need to do to support their children’s progress.”

“The governing body is now knowledgeable and very effective, helping to drive forward many improvements and remove barriers to successful learning.

## Behaviour and Safety of students

“The **behaviour of pupils is good**. Students say that behaviour has **improved considerably** since the new Headteacher arrived. The vast majority of parents and carers who responded to the surveys and all staff completing the inspection questionnaire agreed.”

“**Students make a strong contribution** to the school. For instance, members of the student council initiated the ‘Student Charter’ based on how students would like to work with their teachers and peers in their lessons, so that all can thrive in a positive learning and social environment. **The resulting agreed routines ensure that all of them can learn in a calm, supportive environment, free from disruption.**”

“Students arrive punctually to lessons and are ready to learn. They show commitment to their work. They are courteous to each other and to adults, and support each other well.”

“Students wear their uniform with pride and ensure that the environment is clean and tidy by taking good care of the school’s and their own equipment and always clearing up after themselves. **Inspectors saw no disruptive behaviour in class or at social times around the school.**”

“**The school’s work to keep students safe and secure is good**. Students know that if they have any concerns they can turn to a member of staff who will help them.”

“Students learn tolerance and respect for all people, no matter what their race, culture, religion or sexual orientation. **As a result the school is a harmonious community and British values are promoted well.**”

## The quality of teaching

“**The quality of the teaching is improving quickly. Previously inadequate teaching has been tackled decisively and eliminated.** Students’ progress in mathematics last year was a considerable improvement on the previous year.”

“The quality of teaching in English improved dramatically over the last year. As a result, students make good progress in English in all year groups.”

“**Teachers and other adults show that they have high expectations of all students. A culture of mutual respect ensures that lessons proceed at a good pace and students try their best throughout.**”

“Marking of ongoing work and regular tests is frequent. **Helpful guidance ensures that students can learn from their mistakes and improve their work.**”

“Teaching assistants and other adults **give well-targeted support to students needing additional help. This is helping them to learn well and make increasingly good progress.**”



"The quality of homework, including extended projects and research, and the teachers' feedback to students have made a good contribution to raising standards in the past year and continue to do so."

### The achievement of pupils

"In 2014, unvalidated school data shows a **marked improvement** on the 2013 results."

"Disadvantaged students are now making more rapid progress in all subjects."

"In 2014, students in Year 11 reached standards and rates of progress in English that were above national averages. Additionally, students entered for the single sciences made good progress to reach average standards. Across the work-related subjects such as in the performing arts faculty, students make consistently good progress and achieve well."

"The school's internal data indicates that across the subjects and year groups, rates of progress, including for disabled students and those with special educational needs, **are faster this year than at the same time last year. This is because the quality of teaching is continuing to improve, support is better targeted and students have better attitudes to learning. They now try hard and want to succeed.**"

### The Sixth Form

"New leadership of the sixth form has ensured that the quality of teaching, students' behaviour and achievement have improved and are now good."

**"Students' behaviour is good. Their attitudes to learning are good.** Students are now required to be in school or a partner school for the whole day doing independent study when they do not have timetabled lessons. Like students in the rest of the school, they want to learn and succeed."

"Students take on many responsibilities in the school such as being prefects, coaching younger students and supporting senior staff in the appointment of new teachers and leaders."

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On our website you will be able to access a powerpoint presentation with many more comments from the Inspection team and you will be able to follow a link to the full report.

We are a school on a journey to good and then outstanding so we can be the best possible school for our students and achieve our vision that 'every single student will reach and exceed their potential and leave us with the qualifications, skills and attitudes that they need to move on to the next stage of their lives.'

We still have areas we want to improve but are thrilled that Ofsted have recognised how far that we have come on our journey, I know with your support we will continue to go from strength to strength.

Enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards

Beth Honnor
Headteacher