

26 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find attached the final report from the recent Ofsted inspection, which confirmed that:

*'The school and members of the Governing Body' have brought about some positive changes since the previous inspection'.*

While we are disappointed that the school is still judged Requires Improvement, it is clear from the report that many positive developments were recognised by the inspection team and that the progress identified shows we have continued to improve from the last report. I encourage you to read the text not just the headlines because one-word judgements do have their limits.

A number of effective areas were highlighted in the report and showed that our school:

- Has effective safeguarding
- Has raised expectations of pupils' achievement
- Offers trusted adults that pupils can go to for support
- Has improved pupils' conduct in lessons
- Has developed opportunities for pupil leadership roles
- Has developed subject curriculums 'to ensure that the knowledge that pupils need to learn is identified clearly'
- Is one where 'in the main, pupils respond positively to the new behaviour management system.'
- Is one which has reading 'as a high priority' and where pupils who find reading difficult benefit from support that helps them to overcome gaps in their reading knowledge'.
- Is one where 'the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs 'are accurately identified' and where 'their needs are well met'
- Takes appropriate action to address absence
- Has a carefully designed Personal Social Health Education curriculum 'to develop pupils' awareness of personal safety and healthy living'
- Offers helpful careers advice to help students 'make well informed decisions about their next steps'.



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Further progress now needs to be made in ensuring the consistency in delivery of the ambitious curriculum and ensuring the behaviour policy is implemented consistently across the school. There are, as the report states, a small number of students whose behaviour is a real challenge. We will continue to offer those pupils support and boundaries to help them modify their behaviour and turn things round, but we will not accept their behaviour or the impact on their peers and staff. We never want to permanently exclude or manage move but we will if necessary where they are unwilling to respond to the support and unwilling to meet the raised expectations.

We are extremely disappointed by the personal development grade. The PSHE, finance, careers and diversity are all recognised as strong in the report; we offer almost 30 extra curricular activities and a good number of trips, many of which are subsidised. Inspectors ask us to promote this more widely to improve take up but RI based on this seems disproportionate.

As always, we continue to strive to improve our delivery for the benefit of all our young people who deserve the best opportunities that we can provide for them. The school will soon move into a new phase with the Academy Trust from July 1<sup>st</sup> and a new Headteacher from September. They will continue to build on the solid foundations of the work that has been done so far in support of all our pupils.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Waller  
Headteacher



Mrs J Shepherd  
Chair of Governors