

21 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Re. Ofsted inspection 2 & 3 November 2016

As you are aware we were inspected on 2 and 3 November by a team from Ofsted (the Office for Standards in Education). A copy of the full report is available on their website (<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>) and we have uploaded a copy onto our website. Paper copies are available in the Academy for anyone who may wish to have one.

Ofsted found that the Academy has made significant recent improvements on its way to becoming good, but is not yet there and is still required to improve. The inspection team concluded that the effectiveness of leadership & management and 16 to 19 study programmes are 'good', and that the quality of teaching, pupil outcomes and personal development, behavior and welfare requires improvement. Inspectors praised the Academy's leadership, attendance, 6th Form and safeguarding arrangements. Whilst finding that behaviour for learning and pupil progress needs to improve further, they also recognised that improvements had occurred and were significant but not embedded fully enough to be 'good' at the present time. The Trust's improved level of support and challenge was also recognised.

It was a very robust inspection with nearly 40 lessons inspected and meetings held with pupils, senior staff, heads of department and year, teaching staff, support staff and governors. There was also an extensive scrutiny of pupils' books across all subjects and year books that showed the inspectors the good levels of progress that are now being made and promise improved outcomes again this year.

Parents will be interested to know that inspectors found that pupils' behaviour in and around the Academy is good and that pupils show courtesy to each other and to adults. Pupils say that they feel safe and well cared for. Ultimately, I am pleased with the final outcome. The inspection framework has changed and toughened since our last inspection, but above all I believe that the final judgements are fair. We are not complacent and realise there is still much to do, but it is important that our hard work and improvements to date have been recognised. The inspectors highlighted two broad areas for further improvement. Reassuringly, 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, and those parents who completed the online questionnaires which were overwhelmingly positive about the Academy. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Ofsted report, or the Academy's response to it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Burton
Principal