



Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Ofsted Report

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, we welcomed a team of five Ofsted inspectors into our school to undertake a graded inspection.

Our previous visit from Ofsted – in March 2020, the week before we went into the first COVID-19 lockdown – was for an ungraded inspection. We knew that the next inspection would be graded, and have been waiting since March 2021 for that to be scheduled. In the meantime, we have worked hard to drive the school forwards to meet the expectations of a more rigorous framework introduced by Ofsted in September 2019.

Please find attached a copy of the outcome of our inspection, which includes the specific findings from the team. Despite the two days being incredibly intense, we believe the inspection process was rigorous and fair. The inspection team visited all areas of the school and met with leaders, staff, students and members of our governing body.

There are many positives in the report. Ofsted highlights the wide range of activities and leadership opportunities on offer to our students and the impact this has on their personal growth. All of which enable students to “*increase their confidence, deepen their knowledge and broaden their range of experiences and interests*”.

Ofsted found that “*all pupils access a broad and engaging curriculum*”. This recognises the work of our Heads of Department and teaching staff to ensure students are fully prepared for their exams at the end of Key Stages 4 and 5.

Our careers provision is recognised as a strength of the school, contributing to “*preparing pupils for the next stages in their education and employment*”.

We are also proud that the positive attitude and behaviour of the vast majority of our students has been recognised in the report.

It is clear there are a number of things for us to continue to work on. Our own internal review identified the same areas of improvement as the Ofsted inspection team, and this report empowers us to continue to drive the school in the direction we have taken this academic year. As the report says:

*“Leaders and governors have a clear and accurate view of the school’s strengths and areas for development. Leaders are putting in place well-considered improvements to the curriculum*

*and pastoral system. Leaders are checking the impact of their actions. These are beginning to bear fruit, but the changes are not fully embedded.”*

Our Senior Leadership Team has already started work to address the points raised by Ofsted in preparation for the next academic year. Further communications to students, parents/carers and other stakeholders will explain what this entails, but it will include increased expectations of our students, adjustments to our Behaviour Policy and changes to the content of our PSHE curriculum.

Please be reassured we will continue to work hard, with tenacity and determination, in the next academic year to respond to the feedback we have received and move the school in the right direction. We look forward to welcoming Ofsted back in the next academic year to evidence the positive progress we continue to make.

We will write to you again in September with some updates in relation to our ethos and expectations and look forward to your continued support of our school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Foster  
Headteacher



Mr J Warehand  
Chair of Governors