



8th February 2018

Dear Parents,

Ofsted Visit Letter

We are delighted to share with you the letter we have now received from Ofsted following their visit to us last month. Please note that this is not in the format of the reports you will have seen in the past. The point of this short visit was to check that our school remains at least 'Good'. For such visits this would only have converted to a full inspection the next day if they were concerned that standards had dropped. As you can see if you compare the letter and our previous report (Ofsted 2014) our overall standards have in fact raised and all targets set at the last inspection have been met. For this type of visit therefore a letter is all that the inspectors provide, and individual judgements are not given on areas such as leadership, behaviour, outcomes for pupils or the quality of teaching, learning and assessment as the judgements from the last full inspection still stand.

What the letter doesn't cover is the fabulous feedback we received informally on the day, as there are very strict rules on the language they can use in a formal letter. The shorter letter didn't capture all of this. When we listened to the informal feedback and words such as 'exceptional' and 'excellent' were used frequently, we really felt that they had achieved a genuine understanding of the wonderful ethos of nurture and care, coupled with high aspirations and challenge for all our students and staff. We are so proud of our students and staff and we wanted you to be able to have a deeper understanding of the hugely positive messages we received.

Given that, we simply wanted to share with you some of the feedback we received at the meetings with the inspectors. Inspectors emphasised again and again in their feedback to senior leaders, Governors and Trustees their perception of the family ethos within the school, the kept mentioning the 'wrap around care' that they observed and how our students were friendly, articulate, polite and mature and are clearly proud of their high standards of behaviour and work rate. They spoke of a welcoming community, delightful lessons and a 'strong learning culture', emanating from a close knit leadership team with very strong middle leadership, and an executive head who is passionate, driven, open and honest. They also explored the impact of our new leadership structures and were fully reassured. Where any individual subjects are named in the letter, the Inspectors were keen to point out that this was simply because they had either had a blip (i.e. PE in 2017) or because the OVERALL progress data over the last two years is not quite solidly outstanding (i.e. Maths, Geography and our overall score for our disadvantaged students). Nonetheless they were keen to stress that the data for these subjects is still strong data and firmly in line with/slightly above national averages. It is simply not significantly above national averages as yet.

Overall we remain very proud of our students and staff, and we hope that you will read the attached letter with the same pride which we, as Governors and Trustees, have in our school.

Kind regards,
Helen Dicker

Chair of Governors and Trustees

Outstanding education at the heart of the community