

NR/SH/CH

22 November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Ofsted Report**

You will be aware that we had an Ofsted inspection earlier this term - the report has now been finalised and will be published on the Ofsted website tomorrow.

It states that, whilst we still have work to do, we are well on the way to achieving good grades in all categories.

You will receive a copy of the report alongside this letter.

Please take some time to read through the report, to pick up the huge amount of positive phrases throughout the different sections, such as:

<b>Leadership and management</b>	<b>Quality of teaching</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "The Executive Headteacher is leading the school in the right direction"</li><li>• "Staff morale is high"</li><li>• "Leaders and governors have an accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses. They are ambitious to improve the school further"</li><li>• "Staff work very hard"</li><li>• "The relatively new team of senior leaders is highly committed and shares the Executive Headteacher's vision for further improvement"</li><li>• "Subject leadership is also improving"</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "In mathematics, teaching is improving"</li><li>• "Most teachers set high expectations for pupils' behaviour and effort in lessons. Well considered routines at the beginning of lessons means that little learning time is lost."</li></ul>

<b>Personal development, behaviour and welfare</b>	<b>Pupil outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Relationships between staff and pupils are very positive"</li> <li>• "Leaders have been successful in ensuring that pupils behave well"</li> <li>• "The quality of teaching, pupils' achievement, pupils' behaviour and attendance are all showing clear signs of improvement"</li> <li>• "Pupils are safe in the school. Pupils also said they feel safe in the school and are confident to seek help from teachers and other adults when they need to."</li> <li>• "Pupils are smartly dressed in their uniform and they are proud of their school."</li> <li>• "The behaviour of pupils is good."</li> <li>• "The school is calm and orderly. Pupils conduct themselves sensibly between lessons and at breaktimes. Social areas are well supervised by staff."</li> <li>• "There are clear and effective systems in place to manage behaviour."</li> <li>• "The vast majority of pupils behave well in lessons. They listen attentively to each other and show respect for others."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Most impressive is the rapid improvement made by [KS2] pupils [since January 2018]"</li> <li>• "Leaders use the pupil premium funding effectively"</li> <li>• "The funding used to support the individual needs of SEN pupils is used appropriately"</li> <li>• "The school's performance information for last year shows that pupils in Years 5 and 6 made accelerated progress between January and July. This was a direct result of leaders' concerted actions to improve the quality of teaching."</li> <li>• "At Key Stage 4, pupils' progress has improved over the past two years and is now average when compared to the progress of other pupils nationally."</li> <li>• "Historically, the most able pupils have made good progress overall, in comparison with similar pupils nationally."</li> <li>• "The work in pupils' books shows that current pupils are making stronger progress than in the past, particularly at Key Stage 4"</li> <li>• "Leaders and teachers have made a concerted effort to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils."</li> </ul>

The report celebrates many positive achievements throughout the school and we recognise what we need to do on our journey to being an outstanding school.

As a Requires Improvement school, we look forward to the inspectors visiting us again in the near future to see the evidence they need to award us the status of being a "good school".

I am very aware that earlier in the term there were some concerns shared on social media about bullying. Ofsted took issues such as these, which were raised via Parent View, very seriously and this was one of their key lines of enquiry throughout the inspection.

They concluded:

- "Some parents who responded to Ofsted's survey Parent View did not agree that the school deals with bullying effectively. However, many pupils were questioned by inspectors during the inspection, both formally and informally, and pupils did not support this view. Pupils said that bullying is rare and is dealt with quickly when it occurs. Nevertheless, leaders have responded well to parents' concerns and have recently raised the profile of their anti-bullying policy."

The judgement for personal development, behaviour and welfare is Good – the way our students behave in lessons and around the school is commended, as is the way they are cared for and supported by staff.

We will be organising parent meetings where you would be welcome to attend and contribute towards our school improvement programme. More details, dates and instructions to confirm a place will follow in the New Year.

If you wish to discuss any detail of the report in person, please do not hesitate to contact the school to arrange an appointment with either of us in person or by telephone.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Rodgers".

NEIL RODGERS  
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Harris".

SEAN HARRIS  
Chair of Governors