

6th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, can I thank you for the way in which your children have arrived in school today – punctual, in full school uniform and ready to learn. It's been a really positive day, and we have really enjoyed having the buildings full again. Whether your child is a new student or they're settling back into the new school term, do let us know if you have any queries and we'll be happy to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention our After School Club at South Avenue, which is aimed mainly at students in years 5, 6 and 7. This wraparound care is available until 5.30pm and costs £6 per session (including light meal). You can book the After School Club using your My Child at School app.

We shared our updated mission statement and guiding principles with the students this morning. We've decided to move away from using the words "Navigate, Illuminate, Shelter" and instead use "Be kind, work hard, aim high" – hopefully you will agree this is more accessible in its message and represents the key behaviours that we expect from all members of our school community.

Now for some big news... You will be aware that we had an Ofsted inspection in June. The report has now been finalised and will be published on the Ofsted website next week. You can find a full copy alongside this letter, but the news I am delighted to be able to share with you is that James Calvert Spence College is now rated as a 'Good' school!

We were judged as being a good school in all categories:

- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and management
- Sixth form provision
- Overall effectiveness

This is an improvement on our previous judgement of 'Requires Improvement' and is the first time that JCSC (or Coquet High School) has ever been rated as 'Good' by Ofsted. We are absolutely delighted with this outcome which is a true reflection and just reward for the hard work and dedication of all members of our team, across several years.

Some highlights from the report are:

- "Pupils are proud to attend this safe and welcoming school. Staff are warm and friendly."
- "Pupils know what staff expect of them. They are keen to do well."
- "Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) learn well. Highly trained staff provide the right support for each pupil."

- "Pupils who struggle with reading receive effective support right from the start. Pupils speak enthusiastically about how much their reading has improved."
- "Pupils learn about how to stay safe and physically healthy. They learn strategies to support their mental health. Pupils learn to treat people respectfully whatever their background."
- "Students in the sixth form are proud to be part of the school. Staff support them to choose courses that meet their interests and needs."
- "Curriculum planning in the sixth form is extremely strong. Students speak with knowledge and enthusiasm about the subjects they study in Years 12 and 13."
- "Students in the sixth form continue to learn about healthy relationships and mental health. They know how to look after themselves as they grow into young adults."
- "Pupils with SEND access the same learning as their peers. Teachers know when and how to adapt their approach so that pupils' learning needs are met."
- "Provision for key stage 2 pupils has improved greatly. Leaders plan the curriculum so that pupils have the knowledge and skills they will need in key stage 3. Pupils are taught by subject specialists in every subject from Year 6 onwards."
- "Leaders have invested heavily in staff training, especially in curriculum development. This work has been effective in improving the curriculum in most subject areas. Staff are enthused by the training and support they receive. Morale is high."

As always, the report also gives some areas for us to focus on, and we have already started to address these. We are determined to continue our journey of improvement with the goal of becoming an 'Outstanding' school for our community.

I am grateful for the continued support of students, staff, parents and the wider community that has been so important through some challenging times in recent years. I am delighted that all children in the Coquet partnership now attend good schools, and the reassurance that will give their parents around the quality of education at all stages.

Best wishes,



Neil Rodgers
Executive Headteacher