

December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

OFSTED Inspection 2021

I am writing to provide you with details of our latest OFSTED inspection and to thank those of you who were able to complete the parent/carers survey.

OFSTED confirmed the school has shown significant improvement, particularly around the overall **'Quality of Education'** and outcomes achieved by students, now upgraded as **'Good'**.

In addition, the school has maintained its **'Good'** grade for **Sixth Form provision**, where students are thriving and are "delighted to be back in school" after the disruption caused by the pandemic. GCSE and Post 16 results have been in line with top end schools in the country in recent years and this was recognised by the inspectors.

However, the overall grade for the school remains at **'Requires Improvement'** following concerns raised by some students who said there was some inappropriate behaviour at breaks and lunches; some students also expressed concerns about bullying and that they tend not to report it. In addition, although OFSTED acknowledge we have introduced strategies, we have not yet succeeded in eliminating intolerance for those with protected characteristics.

I am delighted with the enormous progress that our students and teaching staff have made since our last inspection. The 2018 inspection was focused on the outcomes achieved by students and we have worked incredibly hard to drive improvements across the curriculum. Students and staff can be particularly proud of their achievements despite the extraordinary challenges presented by the Covid 19 pandemic over the last two academic years. The **'Good'** grading for **'Quality of Education'** recognises these achievements.

I am genuinely concerned, however, by the feedback some students shared with inspectors regarding their reporting of bullying and issues relating to behaviour in social times. We had already prioritised our anti-bullying work and we will now re-double our efforts to stamp out bullying and intolerance. Child safeguarding practices were judged as effective but we will also now look to strengthen how we support students and challenge discrimination in all its forms.

I would like to thank Mario Roncaglia, Chair of the Governing Board and all governors who have worked tirelessly over the last three years in support of the school. Their very practical



involvement, as well as strategic oversight, has been exceptionally helpful and this is recognised in the report.

In addition, I would also like to thank James Vaughan who, on behalf of the Board, is currently leading the parent engagement strategy; I would like to invite any parents who are interested to contact the school office and we will pass on your details.

If any parent/carer would like to discuss the report with myself or a member of the Board, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely



Sally Wilson
Headteacher

