

Monday 6th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we enter the festive season the school is filled with positive news. Our netball and basketball teams continue to triumph, beating all of the local competition. Our singers and drummers continue to make a joyful noise and the school is resplendent with decorations. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped make this happen.

You will be aware that in November we had a visit from OFSTED. The outcomes of that visit will be officially published on the website from the 14th of December. I am though allowed to share the findings with you today.

The academy and Fairfax Multi Academy Trust are very proud of this report (as all the children, parents and staff should be too), as it has recognised the significant improvements in the school since January 2020 and really celebrates our strengths of which there are many. The inspection team recognised that the school has improved substantially in spite of the highly challenging backdrop of a global pandemic.

The inspectors judge the school in five areas – Leadership and Management, Personal Development, Early Years, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes.

Leadership and Management is **Good**. Leaders are taking appropriate actions to continue the improvement journey of the school and safeguarding is effective.

Personal development is **Good**. Students are safe and happy, students are provided with significant opportunity to develop beyond the curriculum.

The Early Years and primary provision known by OFSTED as EYFS is **Good**. Students make good progress as phonics and the rest of the curriculum is well taught.

Some aspects of the Quality of Education and Behaviour and Attitudes require further improvement, however, inspectors have recognised that leaders are taking the right steps to move the school forward to good in all categories.

The outcomes of this most recent inspection are a testament to the hard work and dedication of a committed staffing team who work tirelessly supporting your children. When we say to our students “we care about you and we want you to succeed” this is a statement of active intent to make sure that the young people in our care have the best possible opportunity.

I have summarised the strengths and areas for improvement that you will read about in the report on the next page but I would like to assure you all that we are not complacent about the areas for improvement and we are committed to ensuring all our students gain an exceptional education in an environment that promotes excellence in all that we do. The academy has already begun to respond to these areas and we look forward to sharing our progress towards them with you over the coming terms.

As we look forwards I hope that you will continue to work proactively with us to support your child with their learning in what remains a very difficult pandemic situation for us all. Please always engage with your children's teachers and pastoral support staff if you believe there may be some way we can improve your child's experiences.

In the new year we will be launching our new parent forum and it will be wonderful to see as many of you as possible at this event and please do not forget that we are always happy to support visits to the academy so that you can see us in action and the work that takes place to support your children.

Yours faithfully



Miss M Green
Head of Academy

Inspection Report

Summary of Key Judgements

Leadership and management: **Good**

- This is an improving school; the school is now improving in all areas
- It is well led and supported effectively by Fairfax Multi Academy Trust
- Expectations are high
- Pupils are safe and feel safe
- Safeguarding is effective
- Pupils are happy and enjoy school

Personal Development: **Good**

- The school promotes wider development well
- Music is strong both in the curriculum and as an extra-curricular activity
- The school is particularly successful in teaching pupils about diversity and respect
- Careers education helps to ensure that pupils move on to appropriate further study

EYFS: **Good**

- In reception students make good progress
- The curriculum is well planned and delivered
- Children behave well
- Phonics is well taught

Quality of Education: Requires Improvement

- Leaders have put in place an effective curriculum in all subjects in all years
- Strong practice is present
- How well this is taught varies between lessons and leaders are working hard to ensure a greater consistency in this area

Behaviour and Attitudes: Requires Improvement

- Most pupils have positive attitudes to learning and are keen to do well
- Behaviour has improved
- Attendance has improved and most students attend regularly
- Too many pupils are regularly late
- There is still too much low-level disruption in lessons

Summary of recommendations for improvement

- Ensure the quality of teaching is consistent across the academy
- Reduce low level disruption in classrooms and improve punctuality to school
- Identify students with SEND accurately and speedily
- Build positive relationships with parents