



## Information on our Recent Ofsted Inspection

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now received the final report from Ofsted following our inspection on 13th and 14th November 2018. The full report will be published on the Ofsted website on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019. However, we can inform you of the outcome in advance.

This inspection was always going to be a challenging one, as although leaders have recently implemented the necessary changes to make improvements, it is too soon to see the impact of their actions. This has resulted in an overall judgement of 'Serious Weaknesses' in 2 areas and 'Requires Improvement' in the remaining categories. The inspectors found much positive strength within the school and were confident that we are already making progress towards ensuring sustainable improvement.

Some very difficult decisions have been made over the past 18 months – particularly in terms of implementing a broad and balanced curriculum, introduction of a new discipline policy and a more appropriate staffing structure to enable students to achieve their full potential. The Ofsted Team were also supportive of these changes and had faith that we are going to achieve our future aspirational targets.

The outcome of the inspection is obviously very disappointing for all of us and, to a certain extent, not a surprise given the school's unsettled past.

With the publication of the report, now is the time to look forward and continue to address the issues that you are most concerned about – ensuring that the children of our school receive the high quality education that they deserve in a safe environment where all children are supported to succeed. We hope that you will continue to support us with this aim.

Key points from the report are noted below. A specific plan has already been created in conjunction with the Local Authority and School Development Partners.

### What we are doing well:

- Over the past year, the headteacher with the support of governors, has effectively and swiftly addressed weaker leadership and strengthened it at all levels.
- Leaders are determined to develop their evaluation of the weaknesses of the school, so they are clear on what needs to be done and how to do it, so that the necessary improvements can be made.
- The governing body is now holding leaders to account more effectively.
- The school's specialist provision for pupils who have physical or hearing impairments is a strength of the school.
- Leaders have ensured the curriculum is broad and balanced and meets the needs of all pupils.
- Although leaders have recently implemented the necessary changes to make improvements, it is too soon to see the impact of their actions.



## What we need to improve:

- Over the last two years, the progress of pupils in most subjects by the end of Year 11, has been inadequate.
- Current pupils are not making enough progress in English, mathematics and science.
- Pupils are given few chances to write at length. Because of this, they do not often get the opportunity to practise and develop their literacy skills.
- In key stages 3 and 4, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is too variable. Teachers' expectations of what pupils, especially the most able, ought to be able to achieve, are not high enough.
- Teaching is improving because of leaders' actions, but these improvements have not had the necessary impact on the progress of pupils.
- The overall quality of teaching and learning has not improved quickly enough.
- There have been some improvements in pupils' attendance, but not all pupils attend school regularly.

**We would like to invite you to an open meeting at school on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 6:30pm to discuss the Ofsted report and the progress that we are already making to further improve our school.**

We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback, well-wishes and support received from all stakeholders. Sustainable change takes time but we and the rest of the team are dedicated to achieving this.

Yours faithfully,

A Briggs  
Chair of Governors

D Watkin  
Headteacher