



Dear Parent/Carer

Ofsted Inspection Report – May 2019

I wanted to write to you today regarding the report we have received following our recent Ofsted inspection. The report is available to read on our academy's website but I wanted to personally let you know its contents and its conclusion.

First and foremost, while positive that so many strengths of our academy are recognised, it is very disappointing that Ofsted has found that our academy is judged to be inadequate overall. Aspects of the report relate to the last three academic years and we don't believe that the judgement for overall effectiveness is a true reflection of our current practices; unfortunately, these are the criteria by which Ofsted has judged us.

I can assure you, as the newly appointed Principal at Sutton Community Academy, that our dedicated staff, governors and fellow Trust colleagues all want to transform lives. We knew there were some areas where we needed to improve and had already drawn up an improvement action plan to address these. The progress we have made against them is very encouraging and some of this is acknowledged in the inspection report. I have addressed some of the key points in turn.

Safeguarding:

You will be aware that I had been in post for four weeks prior to the inspection and I can assure you that any and all historical safeguarding issues were alleviated prior to this inspection or have been remedied with immediate effect. The limiting judgement related to safeguarding meant that other judgements such as Leadership and Management and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare were lower than we absolutely believe them to be.

Behaviour:

It is particularly frustrating that despite Ofsted judging the behaviour of pupils as "requires improvement" this does not represent how pupils "conduct themselves well around school and in lessons". Visitors to our academy frequently comment on the positive atmosphere around the site and the "positive relationships between staff and pupils".

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

We are fully aware of the need for consistency in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. Our recent Inset Day was fully focused on the need for the highest expectations of what our students can achieve, differentiation, engaging students and modelling the feedback policy to allow students to improve their work. Improved teaching this academic year is already leading to better progress being made than previously.

Parent partnerships and communication:

I had discussed, in detail, with the inspectors that at the next Parent Steering Group (PSG) we will be developing an improved communications policy to ensure we respond more quickly and effectively to parents' concerns.

Improvement plans:

The report states that many plans are in place but are being slowly realised or yet to be implemented. On this I would like to point out the following statements from the report:

- Leaders have put in place an attendance action plan which has improved attendance with robust procedures. We have adopted a 'breaking down barriers' approach to improving pupils' attendance.
- We have also "reviewed the curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs and interests of pupils well". Amendments to the curriculum are helping current pupils to make better progress than in recent years.
- We have "re-designed" the PSHCE curriculum to support pupils in protecting themselves from risks.
- The SENCo provides strong leadership. "Effective teaching strategies and an amended curriculum are helping" SEND pupils to make good progress.
- Leaders have taken action to improve processes to support the most vulnerable pupils introducing the Kindness programme and the Blue Button.
- Leaders have halted the GCSE English Literature early entry and we have a new structure in place for the English department next year to support the Head of English with predicted improved outcomes.
- Recent changes to the line management of departments are beginning to help heads of department to improve their effectiveness.
- Improved teaching means that current students are making better progress than in the past. (We had the highest GCSE Progress 8 in the local area last year).
- Leaders tracking information and work in students' books indicate that students, including disadvantaged students and those with SEND (currently in Years 10 and 11) are making better progress than in the past.
- Leaders have taken effective action to address retention concerns and students are now guided through the processes of applying to and enrolling in the sixth form i.e. "right student, right course"

We are in the process of creating an educational legacy at Sutton Community Academy where our new vision is to create Successful, Confident and Ambitious students. We are determined to implement considered changes across the academy that will improve the experience of our students with immediate effect.

In order to provide the opportunity for any parents/carers wishing to discuss this recent report and how as an Academy we will again be judged as a "good" academy at our next Ofsted inspection then I am proposing meeting dates as indicated below which I welcome you to attend:

- Monday 13th May 5.30-6.00pm Key Stage 4 & 5
- Wednesday 15th May 5.30-6.00pm Key Stage 3
- Thursday 16th May 5.00-5.30pm 2019-20 Year 7 students (current Year 6)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support since I started my role as Principal. I am committed to making the academy the best it can be and to ensuring your child gets the best possible education, and I know that my staff feel the same, as do the leaders at our sponsor, Academy Transformation Trust. Your support as we seek to achieve this will be invaluable.

Yours sincerely,



David Mackey, Principal