

8th March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Ofsted Inspection

You are sending your child to a good school!

As you are aware, Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth was visited by Ofsted on 29th and 30th January 2019 and I am delighted to share with you the judgement and the report. Lead inspector, Chris Smith (Her Majesty's Inspector) and his team **judged the academy to be GOOD.**

There are many highly positive comments made in the report, but I would like to particularly highlight the following:

- The school is being rapidly transformed through the highly effective actions of leaders and the trust. The capacity of the trust to sustain improvements is obvious to see.
- In the 27 months since becoming the school's sponsor, leaders have rapidly improved the climate for learning and raised everyone's expectations.
- Members of staff across the school are fully on board.
- Pupils are increasingly aspiring to reach the high standards expected of them.
- The curriculum is well designed to meet pupils' needs, interests and aspirations.
- There is good provision in place to address the many gaps in pupils' knowledge when they start at the school.
- Pupils' personal development is promoted well through a lively and wide-ranging curriculum.
- **Pupils feel safe.**
- Leaders have been resolute and determined to challenge poor behaviour and negative attitudes. They have successfully created a more positive climate for learning.
- Teachers plan lessons carefully. Pupils are introduced to new knowledge and skills in a thoughtfully sequenced manner.
- **Relationships between teachers and pupils are positive.**
- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good.
- **Pupils who are more vulnerable receive good support...** For example, pupils with specific medical needs and those who experience anxiety felt that staff work hard to understand their needs and help them to thrive. The school has many support staff who get to know pupils well and work with them across the day to help them feel happy and involved.
- **The quality of education for pupils in the additionally resourced provision has been transformed.** These pupils are now fully integrated into mainstream lessons and are welcomed and well supported by their peers. The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) ensures that their specific needs are fully met. Their academic progress is reviewed regularly to ensure that everything is being done to help them make good progress.

We would like to ask for your help to improve even further, particularly in relation to attendance. The inspection report noted:

- Leaders are working hard to build a positive relationship with parents and carers, although their efforts to improve pupils' life chances are hindered by some parents, for example, when they condone their children missing school regularly.

It is of vital importance to ensure your child has excellent attendance so that they don't miss out on learning.

We are not complacent and with your help, we will improve the academy even further. Thank you for your ongoing support; we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the life chances of all of our children at Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth.

Yours faithfully



Mark Hassack
Executive Principal