

28th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: OFSTED Report

You will recall that OFSTED inspectors visited the Academy just before the Christmas holidays. Some may say the timing wasn't the best coming at the end of a long and extremely challenging term due to the pandemic, coupled with the storm that the country was enduring. But, here at The Orme Academy, we were desperately pleased that the inspection came as this gives us a benchmark on the rapid progress we are making.

Whilst TOA has been rated as Requires Improvement overall, I am delighted to report that 'Leadership and Management' has been rated as 'Good'. This gives us all the confidence and reassurance that the changes we have made so far are having a positive impact on our students and reinforces that we have strong leadership to take TOA to be an outstanding school – the Academy is in good hands. Indeed, Inspectors said...

"Pupils are proud to belong to The Orme Academy. Older pupils point to the improvements they have seen during the time that they have been at the school. Pupils say that teachers now have higher expectations of them"

"Leaders have carefully planned out what pupils should learn and when"

"Senior leaders took up their posts during the first national lockdown. The new principal has identified many of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. They have begun to make the changes the school needs"

"Leaders have designed a clearly sequenced curriculum"

"Leaders have provided teachers with accurate information about how to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Leaders support teachers to use the detailed pupil passports when planning learning for these pupils"

"Leaders have recently introduced reading programmes to make sure that pupils read regularly"

"Staff are positive about the way that leaders support their well-being and help them to manage their workload. The trust provides the school with support to help it improve"

"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Leaders have secure safeguarding systems in place"

Also, very pleasing is that 'Personal Development' has been rated as 'Good'. This means that we really look after our students and help them to become the best they can be. Our wider provision for children here at the Academy through PSHE, Enrichment programme, Careers Education and wider pastoral care has been recognised as being really strong. Inspectors said...

"Pupils take part in a wide range of activities ... in their timetabled enrichment lesson. Pupils welcome the addition of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education to their timetables. They enjoy learning about important issues such as healthy relationships and consent. The careers programme supports pupils to consider and choose their next steps after leaving school. Leaders are continuing to develop this programme to ensure that all pupils go on to education, employment or training after school"

"Pupils say that they feel safe in the school and that staff listen to their problems."

Whilst we acknowledge that the school is rapidly progressing, we are not yet judged as good overall because of the inconsistencies that we are currently eradicating. Our focus prior to the inspection was for significant, sustained improvements in teaching, learning and assessment and these fully align with the areas for development identified in the report as we expected.

I am really pleased with the progress made with behaviour and attitudes overall across the Academy and this is evident by the lack of focus on this in the report, although we recognise that there is still room for improvement. Inspectors were positive about our students overall and noted:

"Behaviour in school is mostly calm and orderly. The new behaviour policy is clear and understood by pupils"

"Pupils say that they feel safe in the school"

The full inspection report is now available to be shared and a copy is attached to this correspondence.

In summary, the inspection provides our community with the confidence that leaders have been and will continue to rigorously drive forward the overall standards of the school. It was a pleasure to hear so much positive feedback from the inspectors gained during their visit from working with our children and staff and listening to your views that you gave so constructively and generously.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you on the next phase of our journey in progressing the Academy further.

Your sincerely



Mr Mark Boughey
Principal

