

JC/CCL

18th April 2023



Dear parents and carers,

I'm pleased to share with you the results of the OFSTED monitoring visit which took place on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2023.

This was the first visit following our Special Measures judgement last summer, and there were two possible outcomes from this visit – either we were or were not making progress towards the removal of special measures. I'm happy to say that inspectors agreed that we are making progress towards that goal, and they go into some detail in their letter about how we've done that so far.

It was important that we showed the inspectors that our plans for change have been the right ones, and that we have the right staff and support in place to make those changes happen. You'll see from their letter that they agree we have.

We also hoped that they would agree on the areas where we know we have made progress; on behaviour in lessons, with personal development, and with all levels of leading change at the school. You'll see that they agree we have.

It was also important to show that we know where our priority areas for action are; on behaviour outside of lessons, on attendance, and on continuing the pace of improvement across the school. The inspectors agreed with us that these are crucial.

Usually, OFSTED tend to send the same lead inspector on each monitoring visit, and we are really hopeful that Richard Jones HMI will indeed be the lead inspector returning for future visits. He was really positive about our school, our students, and the work we are doing together to reach a judgement of being a good school. Having a lead inspector who supports as well as challenges really helps to improve a school as we go through this journey towards good.

The letter is just a summary of the findings from the visit, but inspectors were also complimentary about our students; how much smarter students looked this year, how open and friendly they were with the inspectors, and about their wish for the school to do better. This really matches with what we've seen this year too, and we need students to continue to engage in discussion and action about making improvements. One example even since the inspectors visited is how well students have responded to the discussion about making corridors feel safer, choosing to trial an up/down stairs system, and responsibly sticking to that ever since. We will only truly improve this school if students are all on board with improvements, and remind each other that having respect, responsibility and kindness for all will make their school a successful and enjoyable place to learn.

I'm really happy with this report as a fair reflection of the work we've completed so far together. It's a boost to have the hard work of staff recognised, the support of parents/carers recognised, as well as the progress that we've made. However, inspectors will return at some point in the next few months to check on our progress, and it's important that we continue to improve.

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If you would like more information about the report or plans moving forward, I'm holding a parent and carer forum at school from 6pm on Tuesday the 25th of April. All parents and carers are welcome to attend to hear a presentation on the progress so far, and answer any questions about areas for improving further.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joanna Crewe'.

Joanna Crewe
Headteacher