

14 May 2024

Dear parents and carers,

We're really proud to share with you OFSTED's letter from the recent monitoring visit, just before the Easter break. This was the third monitoring visit after the Special Measures judgement in June 2022, and although each visit has been a positive one, inspectors were very impressed during this visit with the amount of improvements they saw across all aspects of school.

- Students and staff were proud to talk about 'The Chaucer Way' with inspectors, who saw our behaviour expectations in and out of lessons creating a kinder, calmer, more respectful atmosphere where learning can take place.
- They saw our specialist teachers delivering learning in calm and focused classrooms, and were impressed with the staff training in place to continue that improvement. They were impressed with our newer strategies to support reading, and we look forward to sharing more of the successes of students improving their reading on their next visit.
- Inspectors were impressed with how much we have done with our Personal Development pillars, with support from tutors and the year teams, with LIFE and RE lessons, with extra opportunities in school, with careers education, as well as through the Chaucer Way.
- Inspectors also were impressed by our leadership structures, with governors, the trust, and internal leadership all working hard towards the improvement of the school.
- Inspectors recognised our commitment to doing everything we can to keep children safe, and feeling safe in and out of school.
- One of my favourite lines from the letter, is 'During this monitoring inspection, inspectors witnessed pupils having pride in the school, its environment and the community.' We see that and feel that in school too - that students and staff are proud of the improvements we have made, the experiences that children have at Chaucer School, and how wonderful our young people are.

OFSTED will conduct a fourth monitoring visit at some point over the coming months, before finally visiting again to reinspect and regrade the school within the next calendar year. We're confident that as we continue to work hard to improve, we can meet the standards expected for a good grade in all areas.

The biggest help that we need from families is to continue to work with us, and send your children in to school every day. We will continue to share with you how much of a difference improved attendance makes to every aspect of a child's school life, not least how much improved their final results will be if they have good attendance through school. Once again this year, we can see whole grades of difference between Year 11 students with attendance of above 90%, above 85%, and dropping off for those below. The government are changing the rules on attendance expectations for families and we will continue to keep you updated on that. For us, we know that if children aren't in school, they aren't as successful as those that are.

Finally, I want to thank parents and carers for taking the time to feedback to us when we ask for it. We try hard to listen to student, staff and parent voice when making improvements to school, and at times that has included some online surveys. They really do help us continue to improve the school.



Our most recent survey was a repeat of one from a year ago that looked at all aspects of student life, and we were proud to see an increase in positive views about the school, with more of you than ever saying you'd recommend the school to other families.

As ever, if you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter further with me, anything to do with the OFSTED process, or other ways you think we could improve the school, please contact school on the enquiries@chaucer.sheffield.sch.uk email to arrange a time to do so.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Crewe', written in a cursive style.

Joanna Crewe
Headteacher