

OFSTED report

16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been informed by OFSTED that our report will be published on their website on 28th September and we are now allowed to share the report with you. The report summarises the inspectors' findings from their visit on 12th and 13th July. The report is attached with this letter.

First of all, I would like to say that the school staff, the Governors and I have listened to OFSTED very carefully and agree with some of the points they have made. We will continue to address these concerns which, as the report notes, we are already doing.

As you know the inspectors visited the school during our Enrichment Weeks. Year 10 were on work experience; Year 11 had left. On both days various trips took place and this reduced the number of students OFSTED could speak to.

I am really pleased with many comments made in the report. As a school, it is great to know that our quality of education was judged as good especially as we moved from a three year Key Stage 4 to three year Key Stage 3 last year.

To summarise the key aspects of the report:

- Safeguarding is effective – this is a major achievement.
- The quality of education is good.
- Students enjoy their lessons and the extra-curricular activities the school offers.
- There are lots of opportunities for students to develop independence and leadership skills.
- Leaders have thought carefully about what students should learn and so lessons are thoughtfully sequenced.
- Teachers use information to adapt activities to meet the needs of students.
- There are comprehensive plans in place for PSHE however COVID has affected the embedding of these.
- Behaviour and attitudes of students at lunch and break have improved following determined work from leaders.

We were most concerned about the following points:

- Some students remain concerned about bullying and sexual harassment. The report goes on to say that students know who to speak to but do not always choose to do so.
- A minority of students continue to use unkind, racist, homophobic and sexualised language towards each other.

OFSTED's view matches our zero-tolerance approach to the use of inappropriate language in the school. We continue to stress the importance of kindness within the school community. We would appreciate it if you could reinforce these messages at home. If a student is bullied then we need them to report this to a member of staff they know. If another student sees bullying, they also need to report it. It is important students realise that we always act on this information but due to confidentiality, we are unable to share our actions with them.

If I can briefly address each of the action points in turn:

1) OFSTED said "Too many students do not attend school often enough". We knew that this would be a focus for OFSTED following the publication of the new DfE guidance in July. Our attendance is currently in line with the national average. We continue to insist on good attendance of 96% or above from all our students and parents.

2) OFSTED said "Leaders have not been effective enough in tackling bullying and sexual harassment". We are aware that a minority of students have been unkind towards other students. We know that some of our students have struggled to make and maintain positive relationships with their peers, post COVID. We will continue to work with that small minority of students whose behaviour is impacting upon the whole school community. Bullying is never acceptable and is never tolerated.

3) OFSTED said "The curriculum is not ambitious enough". OFSTED's view is that not enough students take a Modern Language at GCSE. As a school our view has always been that we do not insist that any student takes a language at GCSE. We will review this decision with Governors. However, we do not believe the parent body would be in favour of us insisting on this and we do not believe it is in the best interests of our students.

4) OFSTED said "Leaders' plans for teaching careers and PSHE are promising but are not yet fully implemented". This was a work in progress. We increased the Personal Development curriculum last year to an extra hour a week and we have appointed a dedicated Careers Lead from September.

You will notice that Leadership and Management are also graded as Requires Improvement. The Lead Inspector stated that a school cannot be good for Leadership and Management if it requires improvement in any other category. He was clear with Governors that the leaders at the school were capable of making the improvements set out in this report and I have complete confidence in all the leaders at the school.

I have been at the school for 13 years as Deputy and now Headteacher, I know the school and the community very well. I have supported the school through four OFSTED inspections. The judgement of Requires Improvement is a disappointing judgement to be given. A school which Requires Improvement is not what I see on a daily basis and the education department of Hampshire County Council agrees with me. However, we really do require the support of all students and parents in addressing the issues that will return us to the category of Good when OFSTED return to the school.

As always, I would like to thank the whole school community; the staff, students and parents for their continued support of the school. In working together, I am sure we can resolve these issues and continue to move towards being an amazing school community.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you wish to discuss any matters further.

Yours sincerely



Mr Alan Chipping
Headteacher