

Friday 19 January 2017

Dear parent /carer

I am delighted to attach the link for the report from Her Majesty's Inspectors following our recent OFSTED inspection, which confirms that The King's is a 'good' school.

In September 2015, OFSTED introduced their new and more rigorous inspection framework, raising the bar for schools. However, our inspection on 7-8th November 2017 confirmed our own personal judgements that, even with these increased expectations, we consistently offer high quality provision for all young people in our care. This is an excellent achievement for our students, staff and governors and I am extremely proud of them all.

There have been many changes at The King's over the past 15 months including my position as headteacher, the new building, a reformed governing body and new members of staff and students joining our school. We have also seen the introduction of the new GCSE specifications and our new assessment systems to complement them. However, our focus has always been our students and the best opportunities and outcomes for them, which OFSTED fully recognised and supported.

During the visit, inspectors focused very closely on the level of provision for all students, including the progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils. Their feedback reports that: *'current pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, are learning well.'*

The inspection team also commented on the quality of teaching and learning in the school stating that, *'Teachers have strong relationships with pupils, and the atmosphere in classrooms is overwhelmingly positive. Pupils are keen to succeed and they respond readily to teachers' requests.'*

As well as looking at outcomes, we were able to demonstrate to the inspection team the comprehensive nature of our school and the excellent offer our pupils receive, regardless of their starting points. The report is very positive about our pastoral care and support for all students.

We are very proud of the fact that *'Pupils show positive attitudes to learning and respect for staff and pupils alike.'*

Inspectors reviewed the quality of leadership throughout the school and made reference to the school's transformation and the pace of school improvement; a key extract from the report is,

'The headteacher has provided strong and effective leadership since taking up the post in November 2015. She is determined to improve the school's performance and to raise expectations of what pupils at the school can achieve. She has welcomed a range of external support in her ambition to transform the school. Improvements in a number of areas, coupled with effective ongoing support and challenge from the local authority, demonstrate strong capacity for sustained improvement.'

The inspection team also met with a group of governors and their commitment and understanding of the school was evidenced. The inspectors felt that *'the governors are well placed to support the school as it improves because they have an accurate view of strengths and weaknesses.'*

Other areas the inspection team reviewed were safeguarding which is 'effective' and they concluded that all 'strategies in place are fit for purpose'.

Finally, the report also offers the view that 'leaders have improved careers education, information, advice and guidance... so pupils are able to make well-informed decisions for their future education and training.'

Clearly, we are delighted to have received such a positive inspection report and look forward to continuing to develop The King's school to its journey to become 'outstanding'; we are dedicated to offering all of those involved within our community, including our partnership with St Thomas', an excellent experience.

It has been heartening to experience a robust inspection which focused on so many aspects of school life. We remain resolute and focused in our pursuit of an excellent education for every student at The King's and will use the positive inspection feedback to drive us on to improve further.

I thank you for your continued support. The full report can be found at http://thekings.staffs.sch.uk/files/The_Kings_CofE_VA_School_10037154_Final_Reort.pdf

Yours faithfully



Emily Verow
Executive Headteacher

Scan this QR code to go direct to our full OFSTED report:

