

19 October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Outwood Academy City – Ofsted Report September 2016

As you will be aware, Outwood Academy City was inspected by Ofsted on 27th and 28th September 2016. I can now confirm the outcomes of that inspection:

- Effectiveness of Leadership & Management – Good
- Quality of Teaching & Learning – Good
- Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare – Requires Improvement
- Outcomes for Pupils – Good
- Overall Effectiveness – Requires Improvement

Receiving an overall judgement of Requires Improvement is of course very disappointing but I can assure you that we will continue to work with you and your children to get the best outcomes for all students.

Outwood Academy City celebrated its second successive set of outstanding results in August 2016. The results of the Year 11 students leaving the Academy in 2015 and 2016 were significantly above the Local Authority and national averages, made more remarkable by the fact that these students arrived at the Academy with academic starting points significantly below the national average. The 2016 Year 11 cohort achieved 68% A* to C English and maths combined and 11% of the cohort achieved eight or more A* to A grades. The school is also ranked 1st out of 55 similar schools nationally.

The predecessor school was in Special Measures, where standards and expectations were very low and only 43% of its cohort achieved the gold standard five A* to C including English and Maths. There were a large number of students who did not attend the school on a regular basis.

Ofsted acknowledge that the effectiveness of leadership and management, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and outcomes for pupils are good. Ofsted concluded that personal development, behaviour and welfare requires improvement and subsequently overall effectiveness was therefore deemed to require improvement.

The reasons why personal development, behaviour and welfare requires improvement and therefore overall effectiveness requires improvement are as follows;

“Pupils’ attendance is well below average and has not been improving rapidly. Too many pupils are regularly absent from the school” and “behaviour requires improvement as exclusions, especially for boys, are high and not reducing swiftly over time”.

The report did however acknowledge that:

“this is an inclusive school that genuinely wants the best outcomes for its pupils. It has clear, high expectations of behaviour”

“around the school, inspectors noted that those pupils in the school behaved well throughout the day. Pupils enjoyed working together in class to share ideas with others and were keen to learn”. “Pupils told inspectors they are proud of their school. They said that their teachers are always available to give them the support they need with their work or any problems they have”.

The high expectations at the Academy will remain. We will continue to work with our most hard to reach pupils and families, exhausting all possible strategies to support these pupils to engage and attend.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I can assure you that the Academy will focus its efforts on ensuring that all students have good attendance and we will continue to support students whose behaviours can lead to exclusion. A copy of the full Ofsted inspection report can be found on the Academy website. There will be an opportunity, in the near future, through Parent Voice meetings to go through the report in detail, should you wish to do so.

The Academy and its students have come a long way since the days of The City School and I would once again like to thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Brooke
Principal