

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**RE: Ofsted Report**

Dear Parents and carers,

Shortly before the recent half-term you may remember that we were inspected by Ofsted.

I firstly wanted to thank you for your contributions and comments that were shared with and reviewed by the inspection team.

I am delighted to confirm that we have been awarded another 'Good' overall rating, but with two of the inspected areas (personal development and sixth-form provision) gaining the highest 'Outstanding' rating. We have attached the report to this letter so you can read the comments and judgements in your own time, but this means that 3/5 areas are 'Good' and 2/5 areas 'Outstanding'.

We are particularly proud of the 'Outstanding' areas, particularly their comments about our relaunched Ramsey Gatehouse Sixth Form and our Offer and Opportunities Programme, with inspectors saying:

**Sixth Form Provision**

- 'Students in the sixth form benefit significantly due to an ambitious curriculum and expert teaching'
- 'Students speak passionately about the varied and interesting careers guidance they receive'
- 'Pupils have an excellent understanding of the leadership opportunities that are open to them once they finish school and how to achieve them'

**Personal Development**

- 'Pupils benefit from a rich and diverse personal development curriculum'
- 'The school has carefully considered how to develop pupils' character as well as their skills and interests'
- 'Pupils talk with pride about the additional skills they learn that prepare them well for their adult lives'
- 'Pupils are actively involved in the wider community. Pupils gain resilience and confidence'

Since COVID-19, you may also be aware that we have been focusing on establishing routines throughout the school, particularly at the start and end of school, in between lessons, and during break times. This was done with the aim of creating good behaviour and a calm, happy and productive learning environment. We are pleased that inspectors were impressed by the excellent behaviour of our students. Inspectors said:

- 'Pupils at Abbey College are happy, kind and friendly'
- 'Pupils benefit from an orderly, calm environment'
- 'Within lessons, disruption is rare'
- 'Their interactions with adults and other pupils are very respectful'

- 'Routines are clearly understood and followed'
- 'Pupils benefit from an orderly, calm environment. Pupils queue up sensibly at the start of the day and before lessons. They move around the school very considerably. Transitions between lessons and social time are made in a calm manner'
- 'These established routines ensure that pupils feel safe.'
- 'The school has very high expectations for what students should achieve'
- '[Pupils] are well prepared to realise their potential because they study a rich and varied, well-taught curriculum'
- 'Teachers have high expectations of what pupils should achieve'
- 'Teachers have the appropriate subject knowledge to teach the curriculum well. Teachers routinely check what pupils remember and understand'
- 'Teachers are skilled at adapting their teaching if there are gaps in what pupils remember'
- 'There are clear processes to identify and support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)'
- '...pupils with SEND access the school's ambitious curriculum, achieve well, and keep up with their peers'
- 'Students speak passionately about the varied and interesting careers guidance they receive. They are extremely well prepared for future study or work.'
- 'Governors fulfil their role and statutory duties with skill and dedication'
- 'The arrangements for safeguarding are effective'

Inspectors were clear that we just need to focus on embedding consistently high standards of teaching in all areas of the school to become an 'Outstanding' school overall.

I want to thank you for your continued support, and I hope you will join me in celebrating this recognition of the excellent standards that are shown by all members of our school community.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Christoforou

Headteacher, Abbey College