

17th April 2018

Abbey College Ofsted Inspection

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am delighted to share the news with you that Abbey College received a 'Good' rating in all areas in our recent Ofsted inspection. The report marks a significant improvement from our previous judgement, where we received a 'Requires Improvement' rating, and is a testament to the success of the changes that have been introduced at the school over the last few years.

It is quite a feat in today's education climate for a school to achieve a Good Ofsted rating as a standalone academy, without joining a multi-academy trust. However, due to the hard work and dedication of our fantastic students, staff, carers, governors and the local community, we have beaten the odds and pulled together to make Abbey College a school we can all be incredibly proud of. I would like to thank everyone who has helped us on this journey for their support of the school so far.

In this letter, I would like to share with you some highlights from the report, though the report can be found on our website should you wish to read it in full.

Effectiveness of leadership and management

In their report, the Ofsted inspectors praised our leadership team and said that our leaders have accurately identified the school's strengths and weaknesses and used this knowledge to establish a "culture of high expectations and aspirations". The inspectors said "as a result, attendance is above the national average and almost all pupils have positive attitudes that support their learning". Our Governing Body were also praised for their work alongside our senior leaders to evaluate the school and contribute to planning for improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

The inspectors felt that teachers, including newly qualified teachers, were positive about the training and development provided for them and that this is having a positive impact on improving the quality of teaching. As a result, inspectors felt our teachers have "established a positive climate for learning" and that "many teachers use questioning skilfully to probe pupils' understanding and check on their learning". Our teachers were noted to be rising to the challenge of higher standards by providing insightful guidance and next steps for learning for our students. Subsequently, inspectors noted that students improve the quality of their work and know what they need to do to reach higher levels of attainment.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

The inspectors applauded our pastoral leaders for helping boost pupils' growth and confidence to become successful learners. They felt that pastoral leaders were well trained and confident in making the right decision for pupils and that safeguarding is effective. The report said: "Pupils know whom to approach if they need support, and are confident that staff will ensure that they get the help that they need. The overwhelming majority of responses on Parent View indicated that parents feel that their children are safe, happy and well cared for at the school".



The report also praised our leaders' focus on increasing the students' knowledge of how to stay safe online and all forms of bullying. The report said: "Anti-bullying ambassadors are available to support other pupils and the school regularly revisits the topic of bullying. Pupils reported that bullying is rare and that adults deal with any incidents effectively".

The inspectors also reported that we have significantly improved the attendance and behaviour of special educational needs and disadvantaged students. Our teachers were praised for their understanding of each student's needs and for adapting their lesson plans effectively to support each student's learning.

Outcomes for pupils

The report praised the broad curriculum and wide variety of extra-curricular activities we offer our students. Inspectors felt our curriculum "supports pupils' personal and academic development, preparing them well for life in modern Britain". The inspectors said good progress is being made across most subjects with English and maths providing strong foundational skills for students across the curriculum.

16 to 19 study programmes

The inspectors felt that the students in our sixth form have the opportunity to follow a variety of A-level and vocational courses that are matched to their abilities and interests. They said: "Students experience a variety of activities that support their personal development and welfare. These include guidance regarding future study, careers information, and opportunities for work experience. Students were positive about the support that they receive in discussions with inspectors and in their responses to the online questionnaire".

Leadership of the sixth form was regarded as effective and inspectors felt our students "make good progress in their courses and almost all move on to their chosen career or education pathway." The inspectors felt behaviour in the sixth form is good with our students arriving promptly to lessons with "well-organised folders which show that they have developed good study skills that support learning".

I hope you enjoyed reading some highlights from the report. Looking forward, we will continue to improve the College further and ensure we keep providing the highest quality education we can for the children in Ramsey and its surrounding areas.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Christoforou
Headteacher