

Dear parent/carer

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share some important information regarding the Ofsted inspection of our school on 12 and 13 November 2024.

We are pleased to inform you that the latest Ofsted report has been published, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key findings with you.

Key Highlights from the Ofsted Report:

Quality of Education: The report commends our school's commitment to providing a high-quality education. Inspectors noted that the school has carefully created an ambitious curriculum to match its high expectations of what studentss can achieve and teachers have strong subject knowledge to ensure that learning time is not wasted. They select activities which ensure learning is maximised with opportunities for students to apply their prior knowledge. Ofsted also praised our inclusive culture and the support all of our students receive, especially SEND students.

Behaviour and Attitudes: Our students' behaviour and attitudes were praised, with inspectors highlighting the positive and respectful atmosphere within the school. The report acknowledges the efforts of both staff and students in maintaining a conducive learning environment. They noted students feel safe and report any rare incidents of bullying with the school managing this appropriately. The school is highly committed to being inclusive.

Personal Development: The school's work to support students' personal development is exemplary. The school provides well-thought-through opportunities to enable students to thrive. Students make strong contributions to school leadership. This includes taking on roles as house captains and year group prefects. The school's provision for careers education is meticulously organised. Students experience a wide range of activities to assist them in making decisions about their futures. Sixth-form students appreciate the high-quality guidance they receive.

Leadership and Management: The leadership and management of the school were rated highly, with inspectors noting the clear vision and strategic direction set by the senior leadership team. The inspectors also appreciate the collaborative efforts of trustees, staff, parents, and the wider community in supporting the school's gold standards.

Some parents will be aware that there has been a review of Ofsted's work. This is partly based on recommendations made because of tragic events that occurred following an inspection of a primary school just over 2 years ago. The family and colleagues associated with this tragedy do not believe that these recommendations are being upheld by Ofsted. The experience we had as a school also supports this view and consequently it is important for our community to understand that we are pursuing this. School leaders want to be optimistic that Ofsted can be a force for good in their support of school improvement, but we are also collectively aware that there is a need for cultural change.

In addition to the comments above I want to formally praise every member of the school community. We showed we are united community and as always, we are proud of our students and staff for their achievements. Gold is our measure of success, and this means being our best and being committed to continuous improvement. Anyone who visits our school witnesses this positivity and optimism of all. We continue to be determined to provide the best possible education and support for all our students.

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The link to the full report can be found here: https://www.uhs.org.uk/site/data/files/3A1DEB54F92A0A2FDC0F18F03347DEDA.PDF

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the report further, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

L Seymour

Ms L Seymour Principal