

gilesacademy

14 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, Giles Academy was inspected by Ofsted on 11th and 12th of July 2017. This was part of the regular cycle of inspections. We have now received the final report from Ofsted and we have been informed that this will be published on the Ofsted website on 19th September 2017. However, I wanted to make you aware of the report in advance.

Whilst the inspectors identified a great many strengths of the school, the overall outcome for the inspection is that Ofsted has judged the school as requiring improvement. This is clearly disappointing for us. However, I feel that it is important to remember a few key things around Ofsted grading. First of all, the grading system changed in the Ofsted procedure and the grade previously referred to as "Satisfactory" was replaced with "Requires Improvement". Second, there have been some significant changes to the Ofsted framework in recent years, with the most recent change in September 2015, which have raised expectations significantly. Finally, we intend to use the report and the comments made by Ofsted to implement changes to the school to make this a better school for all of our students. This is something we are always wanting to do; we are constantly looking for ways to improve the school and are relentless in our work to implement changes which move the school forward. What is important to us is the experience that students have at the school, the learning that takes place here and the opportunities which attendance at Giles Academy opens up for our students. We will use this external inspection, and the comments which inspectors made during it, to strengthen the school further.

Having said the above, inspectors did find many strengths about the school; they praised the school for being a "harmonious community"; they referred to subject areas where students made particularly good progress; they recognised the work done by the school to strengthen governance; they spoke positively about Giles Adventure and the school's commitment to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the opportunities that these provide to our students; they stated that our students "wear their school uniform with pride" and "are respectful to each other and welcoming to visitors"; they recognised the strengths in outcomes for students in our sixth form (and referred in particular to the 2017 results which had yet to be announced in which students gained significantly above expectations across the sixth form). There were many other strengths highlighted in addition to these.

What comes through from the report is the need for us to develop greater consistency across the school and to take swift action to tackle any of the weaker areas identified. This work has already begun. For example, we need to challenge students with regard to punctuality both to school and to lessons. Another area which the inspectors highlighted as being a key area for improvement was attendance, which they state is below expectations. We will be working with students and parents over the coming weeks and months to implement strategies to address this and to ensure that student attendance at school improves.

Our continued aim is to provide the very best possible educational experience for every single one of our students. We have, throughout many years, appreciated the support of parents and the community and I very much hope that you will continue to support us in this work.

Yours faithfully



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