

19 July 2017

Dear Parents, Carers & Students

STATIONERS' CROWN WOODS ACADEMY - A 'GOOD' SCHOOL SAY OFSTED

I write to inform you that we have just received the report from our recent Ofsted Inspection. We are delighted to share with you that our Academy has been judged a 'Good' school.

I would like to thank students and parents whose opinions, views and feedback to the Inspectors through online questionnaires, discussions in lessons and during break and lunchtimes, helped them form their judgements. As parents and carers, I know you will be pleased that students' conduct is described as *'almost always polite and mature'* and that they arrive to school in a *'calm and orderly manner.'* Students also told inspectors that they *'valued the support they get to keep themselves safe'* and that leaders were *'determined to maintain high standards of behaviour'*.

In reaching their judgements, the Inspectors scrutinised lots of data, evaluated a range of documentation, interviewed staff and students, and visited classes in a range of subjects. They also met with staff, governors and Simon Beamish, CEO of Leigh Academies Trust.

The full report is [available on our website](#) but in summary, highlights include:

- In 2016 the Academy attainment in English and Maths was above national average with particularly strong progress in English. In the Sixth Form students made strong progress across the range of academic courses.
- The report recognised how the small school model has been developed and strengthened since the last inspection. However, students told the inspectors that they wanted more opportunities to collaborate with students in other schools. Inspectors noted that this had already been identified as a priority with the senior team who had *'responded decisively'* to develop a balance between the strengths of the small-school model and recognising pupils' sense of belonging to the whole Academy. Inspectors commented on the strong theme of collaboration in the leadership style which had help develop and refine the Academy's vision and values and create 'drive teams' of staff for further improvement. The inspectors noted that *'the capacity of leadership to further improve the school is strong'*.

Aspire, Strive, Thrive,
Relentlessly pursuing excellence...

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Stationers' Crown Woods Academy is part of Leigh Academies Trust



- Inspectors noted the effective support and challenge provided by Leigh Academies Trust since joining in 2014. The Stationers' Company were also praised for offering effective support through small-school links, business mentoring and the development of the digital media curriculum.
- The report highlights '*high quality*' and '*thorough*' safeguarding records maintained by the Academy with the reporting procedure and effective action valued by students.
- Inspectors noted the '*continuing effective work*' on attendance by leaders and staff which has resulted in attendance, including persistent absence, improving across all groups of students and overall, remains above the national average. When looking at exclusions data, inspectors noted that this was lower than the national average and continuing to fall.
- The inspection focussed on previous areas for development when comparing outcomes in 2016 with the current picture and noted that attainment in science, humanities and some other option subjects for disadvantaged students and those with SEND was improving and this was attributed to teachers' strong subject knowledge, planning and assessment.
- The Inspectors agreed with the Academy's self-evaluation in order to further improve outcomes for all students by setting even more challenging work to enable students to deepen their understanding; and to ensure all teachers develop their expertise to consistently meet the needs of students with SEND in their classes.

The Academy Leadership Team will fully review the report and ensure the findings of the Inspectors are actioned within the Academy Performance Agreement to further improve the outcomes for all students.

Whilst we are pleased with the outcome of the Ofsted inspection, we are not complacent. We are relentless and will continue to work hard for our students and our community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Millar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Millar
Executive Principal

