

Thursday 26th May

OFSTED REPORT

Dear Parent/carer,

I am writing to share some more good news with you.

After their monitoring visit to Park Hall earlier in the month, we have just received OFSTED's report to us which accompanies this letter. We are delighted with the outcome which graded us having:

- Made "good progress towards raising standards" since the last inspection which means that it is better than would normally be expected
- "Good capacity ... to further strengthen the outcomes for students" which also means that it is better than would normally be expected.

Amongst other things, the inspectors also noted:

"Standards are rising strongly"

"The Academy makes good use of rigorous assessment data"

"Published data place the academy in the top 5% of schools nationally in 2010 for its overall performance in terms of students' progress."

"Standards in the sixth form are also rising steadily, with notable improvements in the overall pass rates and the proportion of higher grades achieved in 2010."

"The academy has successfully established a positive climate for learning. In lessons, students settle quickly, behave well and sustain their concentration."

"Around the academy, including break and lunch times, the students show consideration for one another and towards visitors, and respect for their environment."

"The academy has effective systems in place to promote good behaviour and to support individual students who struggle to meet its high expectations."

"Improvements in students' attitudes and behaviour and the sharp decrease in exclusions reflect the positive engagement of most students."

"Students in both the main school and the sixth form are offered a broad range and combination of curriculum pathways ... that match their different needs, abilities and aspirations. Their learning is extended by varied extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities."

"Since the academy opened, the quality of teaching has strengthened significantly... There is a core of consistently good teaching and a burgeoning element of outstanding practice."

The inspectors agreed with us in our judgements that the main areas of the Academy to continue to improve are the quality of teaching and learning in mathematics along with student attendance and punctuality.

I hope that the students, staff, parents/carers and Governors are very proud of the care, skill and continuing hard work that have led to these amazing improvements and this highly positive report. Whilst we recognise that there is still more that can be done to improve the 'Park Hall experience,' we would like to thank you for your continued support in making Park Hall an ever better school for its young people.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Morrison, Principal