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7th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, on 18th October we had a short inspection from Ofsted. I'm delighted to tell you that as a result **the school's overall effectiveness grade is 'good'**.

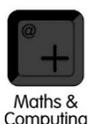
The team spent time looking at the changes to the school since I took up the Headship in January 2017. I'm proud that they found I have "led improvements in teaching with energy and enthusiasm". They noted "an increase in momentum" especially with regards to the expectations of middle leaders and they noted the "impact on the quality of teaching across the school" partly as a result of "the ways leaders analyse and use information in all aspects of the school's work" and as a result of the "increasing robustness and rigour" in checking the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

Safeguarding was found to be effective: all statutory checks and training is in place and we work well with external agencies. Inspectors found that "pastoral leaders have implemented successful strategies leading to improved attendance". Pupils' behaviour was found to be "good", with conduct in the corridors and around the school site "calm and orderly". The inspectors noted that "leaders have raised expectations of how pupils should conduct themselves and pupils understand the school's values". Pupils are "polite and friendly". Pupils told the inspectors that "they feel safe in school" and spoke very positively about the personal, social and health education they receive. The team noted that "they know how to keep themselves healthy and stay safe, including online." Pupils said that the school is a "friendly community" and were "able to reflect on the importance of diversity and respect". Pupils "know who to talk to if they have a concern and say that teachers deal with issues sensitively and effectively when they do occur."

The team concluded that "there are good plans in place to support disadvantaged pupils" and they noted the "significant changes to the key stage 3 curriculum" which is now providing "a sharp focus on essential knowledge and key skills that will help pupils when they move on to their GCSE courses." They noted that "pupils set off on the right foot as they begin key stage 3".

Our Careers provision was considered particularly note-worthy, with the team praising the "high quality advice and support" that pupils receive about GCSE and A level options and careers which "is encouraging them to set themselves more ambitious life and career goals".

The Sixth Form "offers an appropriate programme of study for all students. The curriculum has breadth and relevance for students of all abilities. Higher-ability students in the Sixth Form achieve well".



As with all short inspections, the school has been set some next steps:

- To continue to strengthen the leadership of teaching
- For all teachers to have consistently high expectations of pupils
- To embed a culture of rigorous analysis and record-keeping

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Parent survey. We will be setting up a Parent Forum to help us move forward in partnership to enable the best possible outcomes for our children.

The full report is available on our website.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kate Littledyke'.

Kate Littledyke
Headteacher