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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, we received another visit from Ofsted in May. Thank you so much to all of you who took the time to make your voices heard on Parent View, and especially to those who phoned or emailed with your messages of support. The reason for the second inspection was because it was a 'Section 5' two-day inspection (the October visit was a 'Section 8' one-day inspection). Our previous Section 5 had been in March 2014 and Ofsted are obligated to undertake a Section 5 inspection of schools every five years. A great deal has changed over the last five years: the Inspection Framework itself, GCSE and A level examinations and the school performance measures.

As suggested by our Section 8 in October, the team found much to praise. They found that "pupils are safe in school", they are "polite and courteous...ready to learn and keen to engage. Teachers and pupils have positive relationships. There is a climate of respect when pupils are learning. The behaviour of pupils is good...they are polite and respectful. Pupils behave well when learning and there is no disorderly conduct at break and lunchtimes."

I am proud they concluded that leaders "have a clear, strategic vision" and that our "actions are having an immediate impact". Safeguarding was judged to be effective.

Our "wealth of extra-curricular activities" was praised as was our community work. It was noted that pupils receive "well-planned and impartial careers advice" throughout the school.

As you know from the school Performance Tables, we have had disappointing outcomes in some areas for the last few years, however, the team noted that "standards are beginning to rise", "pupils in the ARB demonstrate high levels of achievement in relation to their starting points" and leaders' actions are having an "immediate impact on improving pupils' progress".

Of course we have several areas that require further improvement, but I am delighted that they judged the 16-19 study programmes to be 'Good', noting "consistently strong practice" and "strong" subject knowledge in post-16 teaching. Sixth Form students "explain their thinking articulately", learning is "successful" because "teachers challenge students in their thinking and they respond well."

If you would like to read the full report, then it is available on our website.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kate Littleddyke'.

Kate Littleddyke

