



Ref: IM/KB

27th April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers, Governors and Students -

OFSTED Inspection March 2017

You will know that we were subject to an Inspection from OFSTED in March this year and I am writing to inform you that we are now able to share the findings of this inspection with all members of the school community.

The full OFSTED report is available via our school website from Friday 28th April under the OFSTED tab and via the OFSTED website from May 2nd. Should you be unable to access the report, or wish to have a paper copy of the report, then a copy will be available from our school office on Friday April 28th.

OFSTED have graded Haydock High School as Requiring Improvement.

Since it was last inspected in 2013 Haydock has undergone significant change, and these changes are recognised in the body of the report. In 2016 our school attained results which contributed to our highest ever A8 score of 45.7, our highest ever percentage of A* and A grades and our 4th highest ever A*-C figures in English and Maths. Many of the changes school has made in recent months are in their infancy but are having a strong impact; the report recognises this and we know that we will have more impact as time progresses. However, we recognise that we have significant work to do ensure that 'every student fulfils their potential', as we have stated in our Charter.

Please be reassured that we are fully committed to this goal.

We also know that we cannot achieve this in isolation, and again our Charter states that we will 'work with our parents, Governors and wider partners to ensure that every student is known, contributes to our community and is fulfilled in achieving their ambitions.'

The inspection team identified a number of positive aspects during their visit and some of these are detailed below:

- Senior leaders have a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses.
- Subject leaders in English, languages and humanities are improving the quality of teaching.
- The school promotes British values and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.
- The curriculum has been revised and provides appropriate opportunities for all pupils.

In the main body of the report, again, a number of areas that school has addressed already have been identified, though it is too early to say that they have had a strong enough impact to be judged 'good'.

For example, the report recognises that in Leadership and Management, the Headteacher has made a number of changes 'aimed at eliminating underperformance arising from low aspirations, weak teaching, inaccurate assessment information and a curriculum that was insufficiently aspirational for all pupils.' Please know that all leaders are committed to ensuring that students must have the very best opportunities and experiences that school can provide, and our sole aim is to guarantee that this happens at Haydock.

In addition, the report states that 'A high priority has been placed on improving teaching' and that leadership have focused on ensuring 'pupils receive more high quality teaching.' This work is ongoing and our recruitment and development of the best quality teachers to teach our students is a fundamental priority.



Haydock High School

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More generally, the report concludes that leaders have ensured that:

- There is an improved curriculum;
- There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities;
- We have good support for students with SEN and/or disabilities in our inclusion areas;
- All pupils understand what it is to be a good citizen;
- We have rigorous checking procedures for child protection and that we are meticulous in following-up referrals to outside agencies.

While there are many other positive examples of work that has been undertaken, **please also be reassured that we know what must be done to drive improvement and we will be unstinting in attempting to provide every possible opportunity for success for our students.**

We will continue to build on the positive ethos we are determined to establish where every student, in every subject, makes the best possible progress. We will be delivering a series of assemblies and presentations which will outline our reaffirmed commitment to our Charter and the values it promotes, establishing '**The Haydock Way**'. The report states that students 'behaved well and showed positive attitudes to their learning in many lessons'. They also 'conducted themselves well during lunch and break times' and 'were polite and courteous to visitors.' We know that in a time of change at school, 'many parents are very positive and say that the school has improved' and others are 'very happy with the school.' **We also know that we must work hard to reassure all members of our school community.** We want to ensure that all stakeholders – students, parents, teachers and Governors – are fully behind our ambitions to improve our school and act to support this drive. We have stated in our Charter that we must each 'embrace our responsibilities as individuals and as members of our community' and 'demonstrate the highest standards, in all respects, at all times'. We recognise that some members of our community do not fully commit to our values and their actions can undermine what we must achieve as a school.

Any actions or conduct which runs counter to our commitment to meet all students' needs will not be accepted and will be confronted robustly.

To ensure that all members of our school community have the opportunity to have their voice heard, we will be hosting a Parents' Forum on **Thursday 11th May from 6-7pm in our Drama studio**. At this forum there will be a presentation, and members of our Senior Leadership Team and Governing body will be available to answer your questions and listen to your comments to ensure that our plans moving forward are fully consultative and representative of all members of our community.

Finally, can I thank you for your ongoing support. It was great to hear the positive comments on Thursday March 30th at the Y7 Parents' Evening, and your feedback, as always, is posted on our website. We will continue to refine this feedback system, and our ways of communicating and engaging with our community, as we move forwards together.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Murphy
Headteacher

Jeanette Devine
Chair of Governors