

19th November 2009 – Ofsted Report

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, the school was inspected by Ofsted on 4 and 5 November. I am delighted to tell you that the Inspectors awarded the school Outstanding status. What you may not know is that in the summer, the Ofsted inspecting regime underwent a considerable overhaul. The result is that the inspection procedures are much more rigorous than before with additional categories also included. The bar has therefore been raised considerably higher. To date only four other schools in the whole country have been awarded Outstanding. All this makes the achievement of the school even more impressive.

I can't tell you how proud I am to be Chair of Governors of this outstanding school. Having talked with the inspectors I felt that they understood our school with its many achievements and ambitions. What they saw on their visit was only a snap shot, but I feel it was a true likeness and one we should all enjoy.

Thank you as well to all the parents and carers who completed questionnaires – they are a crucial part of the process too – the results from those are also included in the report. It was wonderful to read that 94% of parents said they either agreed or strongly agreed that their child enjoyed school, with 92% agreeing or strongly agreeing that they are happy overall with their child's experience at the school.

Although there is a copy of the report included with this letter and posted on our website, it makes such inspirational reading that I hope you don't mind if I pick out some of the quotations of which I am particularly proud. I noted outstanding was used more than 25 times, exceptional 6, and exemplary 5!

"The Charter School is an outstanding school and extremely harmonious school that cares exceptionally well for its students." ... "The effectiveness of care, guidance and support is outstanding; the attention to the needs of individuals is an absolute strength of the school."

"There is a powerful culture of continuous improvement in the school, driven by the headteacher, the school's senior leadership team and the governing body; students, parents and carers and teachers report that the school has improved year on year."

"Behaviour is very good and often outstanding".

"An outstanding curriculum ensures that individual needs are met exceptionally well." "The foundation and pathways curriculum in Key Stage 4 is exemplary in meeting the needs of individuals and groups of students."

"Diversity is valued highly".

"The school's exemplary monitoring and analysis of students' achievements, attitudes to learning and attendance are used to target highly effective interventions."

"The school has outstanding capacity to sustain further improvement."

"The extent to which students feel safe is very high".

"Students' contributions to many aspects of the school contribute significantly to its inclusive nature and impressive harmonious environment."

"The strength of the leadership provided by the headteacher, supported by the school's senior leadership team, is a key element in the school's improvement and its outstanding features."

"The leadership and management of the 6 form are outstanding".

I just wanted to finish with one sentence that perfectly reflects the vision of the parents who originally campaigned for our school. "The inclusive culture and ethos of the school extend beyond its gates and result in outstanding promotion of community cohesion ; in many ways the school is at the heart of the local community."

So thank you again to the exceptional leadership team; the multi talented staff; our hard working pupils, outside agencies and you as supportive parents. What teamwork! I hope you all enjoy reading the report as much as I did!

Well done everyone!

Yours sincerely,

Jane Garvey, Chair of Governors