



The Hollyfield School

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HOLLYFIELD



Form Centre

17 May 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today enclosing our most recent Ofsted report. As you know on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March 2016 the school was inspected by an Ofsted team. The team consisted of 4 inspectors and 1 observer. Needless to say it was a gruelling process but I hope once you read the report you will agree it was a worthwhile one.

At the school we are absolutely delighted. As has been reported in the national press, the new Ofsted framework is more rigorous than ever, so to be acknowledged as “good” in all four categories is an amazing result for Hollyfield School and clearly shows the progress it has made in a really short space of time. A number of schools that were outstanding have received “good” under the new guidance, so to be moved from “requires improvement” to a “good” judgement in just two years is a huge achievement. As with other inspections I have been involved in, the Ofsted team challenged the school at all levels: analysing data, questioning our leadership team, talking to our children, scrutinising our teaching and observing our community at work.

The inspectors recognised the following:

- “Leaders at all levels have successfully secured clear improvement since the last inspection. They have transformed the school’s culture and ethos through high expectations for all learners and very appropriate improvement strategies”.
- “Equal opportunities are central to the school’s ethos. Leaders’ very strong focus on striving for the best possible outcomes for all pupils exemplifies this.”

Our students told the inspectors that they felt really safe, the inspectors commented:

- “The school makes sure the pupils feel safe” and “School leaders have created a very strong culture where the safeguarding of pupils is at the heart of all of its work”.

It was wonderful to hear such positive feedback from the students because we value wholeheartedly their views as they are our future builders, doctors, teachers, beauticians, policy makers and parents and they will shape the future for all of us. The final grading is a testament to team work and to our desire to ensure that all our young people feel academically challenged yet socially and

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INVESTOR
CAREERS



TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGES



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL AWARD
2012-2015



Healthy School



The FA
CHARTER STANDARD
CLUB



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



school
achievement award
Department for Education and Skills

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emotionally supported; it demonstrates what can be achieved if a community works together. Honesty, transparency and the relentless pursuit of excellence characterise our work. In many respects our journey begins with this judgement. It will enable Hollyfield governors, staff, students and parents to embrace our future plans and ensure that we continue to build a centre of educational excellence on Surbiton Hill at the very heart of our community.

The following comments were a delight to receive:

- “The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is outstanding.”
- “School leaders know the pupils and their needs well. Concerns are dealt with rigorously and quickly.”
- “The school makes sure that pupils are safe.”
- “Pupils behave well and relationships based on mutual respect are strong.” and “Pupils enjoy school and take pride in their work.”

I would like to add that we have been greatly supported by Achieving for Children and the local authority under the leadership of Nick Whitfield and skilfully assisted by the governors and staff at Grey Court School. I believe we have the perfect balance: the financial independence that academy status brings whilst remaining a committed member of the primary and secondary schools’ network; learning from and with our fellow travellers.

As your Headteacher, I feel very privileged and humbled to lead such a talented, driven and compassionate group of people and would like to thank each and every one of them for their contribution to this outcome; it really was a team effort.

The Governing body, incredibly well led by Marcus Baines, are a very dedicated skilled group of people who give up their time voluntarily to support the school, they meticulously hold the school to account and deserve our gratitude. They too have been on a journey and deserve the plaudits they receive in the report. Recognition of their work: “Governors are absolutely committed to the school’s drive for improvement”.

Inspectors also noted the following from pupil responses:

- “Pupils’ attitudes to learning are positive. They enjoy lessons, come prepared to learn and take pride in their work”.
- “Pupils are fully aware of the school’s culture of good behaviour”.
- “Pupils are also expected to take full responsibility for their own actions. One pupil stated ‘there is zero tolerance for any nonsense’”.
- “Pupils’ learning is enhanced by a wide range of activities and clubs. Comprehensive sport and music programmes support healthy lifestyles and cultural growth”.

The students did what they always do; they worked hard, cooperated with others and had fun.

Our teachers and support staff worked really hard and deserve all the positive things that were said about them. The support staff made an invaluable contribution as they do, day in day out, throughout the inspection.

The following comment was made regarding the teaching at Hollyfield:

- “Teaching is good. This is supported by a commonly agreed and consistently applied system of lesson planning, rigorous marking, effective training and regular checks on the teaching quality.”

Our leadership team from senior leaders to middle leaders, well what can I say? In English particularly the inspectors found that “In 2015, the proportion of pupils making expected progress in English was well above national expectations.” From the moment I came the leadership teams were open to change and understood the need to maintain all the wonderful things about Hollyfield but also to move it rapidly forward. As a team they are building a great school which has a love for the children at its heart.

The comments regarding the sixth form were well deserved:

- “The leadership of the sixth form is good. Leaders set high expectations for both learners’ attendance and quality of work. They carefully track learners’ progress and intervene well to support those falling behind.”
- “Learners value their work and attendance is high. They are very punctual to lessons. Learners value the contribution the sixth form makes to their growth as individuals, especially as mentors and advisers to younger pupils.”
- “Teaching, learning and assessment in the sixth form are good. Detailed feedback and advice across subjects help learners to improve.”

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you, as parents and carers, for trusting us and supporting the school. You either stayed loyal to the school or took a leap of faith I hope that the outcomes of the inspection go some way to rewarding your loyalty and trust. Your response on parent mail was really helpful and your words since have been very affirming. Thank you.

There is still a lot of work to be done to embed, enhance and create. However, for now please just accept my sincerest thanks and gratitude for your continuing support of The Hollyfield school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm3 cley'.

Ms M Bailey
Headteacher