



Aspire & Achieve Together

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Executive Principal: Mr G. Bassan BA (Hons) NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer,

15th May 2018

OFSTED inspection – 24th April 2018

I am delighted to be able to share with you the outcomes of the OFSTED inspection that took place on 24th April. The inspectors praised Holcombe for setting a **culture of high expectations**, delivering an **inspiring curriculum** and for **developing resilience and determination** in the students' learning. As the OFSTED team were impressed by many aspects of the school and could see the good progress being made, they judged the school as securely GOOD.

Within the report, they identified the following:

- The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.
- Governors, middle leaders, staff and pupils share your vision, commitment, dedication and work ethic.
- The vision to develop pupils' thinking skills is having a positive impact on the quality of learning and teaching.
- Learning walks confirmed teachers' strong subject knowledge and examination awareness as well as their positive relationships and supportive interactions.
- Lessons confirm strong subject knowledge as well as high levels of teacher challenge and pupil engagement.
- Lesson feedback enables pupils to develop their confidence, resilience and the desire to keep on learning.
- Lessons observed confirmed that [disadvantaged and higher-attaining] pupils are known by the teacher and that their specific needs are recognised and addressed.
- The curriculum is appropriately adapted to the needs, abilities and interests of all pupils.
- Pupils say that they feel safe and secure in the school.
- The large majority of parents agreed that their child was happy and well looked after.
- Progress in the sixth form continues to rise as a result of better teaching and strong leadership.
- [At GCSE] pupils' progress and attainment continue to be well above national averages.
- In the sixth form, the trend in attainment and progress over time is one of improvement.

With our sharp focus on Mastery, Endeavour and Thinking, we are now on a mission to move our school to Outstanding over the next 4-5 years. Ms Gage, the new Executive Principal of Holcombe from September, will lead the school in its drive to reach this aspirational goal.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I thank you for your continued support. I would also like to thank parents who completed the online survey during the inspection. We were overwhelmed by the amount of positive and kind comments that you made about the school. You can be assured that we are committed to continuing to improve your son/daughter's Good school as it embarks upon its journey to Outstanding.

You can find a full copy of the OFSTED report on the school's website.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bassan
Executive Principal