

9th September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

I wanted to write to you to update you on the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 6th and 7th June 2019.

We have now received the final report, available on the Ofsted and the Academy website, and I wanted you to be the first to know how the academy was judged, its strengths, and the targets that have been set, so that we can continue to build on the improvements which have already been made.

The overall judgement of the inspection was that the academy has been rated ‘inadequate with serious weaknesses’, but the inspectors noted that the foundations laid by Mr Hanson since his arrival in January 2019, have enabled the academy to make the steady progress required. Inspectors commented that over the last 15 months, the leadership of the school has been strengthened by those with “extensive experience of school improvement”, allowing us to identify areas for development more effectively and take swift action to secure improvements.

We are pleased that Ofsted recognises the strategies that have been put in place in order to develop the curriculum and better meet the needs of all pupils.

The key strengths of our academy, and areas that make us very proud, include:

- Pupils are given opportunities through our PSHE programme, to learn about a wide range of issues.
- Leaders create an “inclusive and supportive community in the school”.
- Pupils participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, trips and visits and our pupils are enthusiastically looking forward to enrolling in a newly formed Combined Cadet Force.
- Pupils benefit from appropriate experiences that help to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- The governing body has suitable experience and skills and is “passionate about improving the school”.
- Leaders have strengthened the area of attendance through a range of strategies.

Of course, there are still key areas where we need to improve further, and a great deal of hard work has already gone into and continues to go into these – which is testament to our strong school community. At Queensbury, we are committed to continuing our journey of improvement, so that all pupils have access to the very best education possible, make excellent academic progress and can achieve their full potential. It is also pleasing that Ofsted has praised us for the changes that have been made to enable the academy

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Principal: Mr R Hanson

to have a positive impact on areas including pupil behaviour as well as the strengthening of senior and middle leadership. We are confident that we have the right team of talented, hardworking and dedicated leaders and staff in place to drive this improvement forward.

In order to progress to the next level, the report also highlighted what the Academy needs to do to improve further – areas which we had already identified and that we will continue to focus on:

- Improving students' progress in English, mathematics and science.
- Increasing engagement in students' learning.
- Ensuring the quality of teaching, learning and assessment across all year groups is strong.
- Implementing plans for the additional funding the school receives for those pupils who are disadvantaged and those with SEND, to ensure that their progress improves.
- Making sure that governors have a full understanding of the impact of the additional funding the school receives for disadvantaged pupils.

It is of course disappointing that Ofsted's overall outcome was that the school is inadequate, in part due to historical outcomes and this will be undoubtedly disappointing for you as parents. However, we have already identified our areas for development and will continue to work hard to drive improvements in the specific areas outlined in the report over the next few months and will keep parents and carers updated on our work.

We are committed to continuing to provide high-quality teaching and learning at the Academy, which will in turn ensure that pupil outcomes improve. We are confident that the Academy will continue on an upward trajectory and we are confident that when Ofsted return, they will recognise the further improvements that have taken place.

Please do take time to read the report so that you can understand our strengths and our areas for improvement. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the leadership team at the academy.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to meet with the Principal and his senior leadership team on Wednesday 18th September 2019 at 5pm, to discuss and input into the academy's action plan.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to raise standards and drive outcomes at the academy as we continue our journey. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community and are looking forward to working with our pupils and you as parents over the new academic year.

Yours faithfully

Mr Tahir Khan
Chair of Governors
Queensbury Academy

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