

Dear Parents and Carers

“This remains a Good School” Ofsted May 2017

I am writing with some excellent news. As you know, we were subject to an Ofsted inspection on 23 May 2017. The inspectors were with us for one day, during which time they visited a large number of lessons and tutor periods, observed the school during break and lunchtime, spoke with school leaders, staff and students and analysed responses from parent, student and staff questionnaires.

We have now received confirmation of their findings and I am very pleased to be able to tell you that they have concluded that **Homewood remains a “Good” school and that safeguarding at the school is effective.**

Given that the inspection framework has changed considerably and become more demanding since our last inspection in 2012, we are particularly pleased to have retained this Good judgement. There is provision under the framework for inspectors to come back for a second day if they are in any doubt about the security of their judgements. In our case, they did not feel this was necessary and were able to secure all the evidence they needed within the one day.

Ofsted findings

Because it was a one-day inspection, we will not receive a full Ofsted report, but we have received a letter from the lead inspector setting out her findings in some detail. This letter is available for you to read on our web-site at(insert link)...and will be published on the Ofsted web-site on 22 June.

Areas she highlighted as being particular strengths of the school included:

- Improvement in GCSE results over recent years
- Inclusive approach and support of students to learn, whatever their needs
- Innovative curriculum, for example the I-College
- Range of curriculum pathways and very low level of students leaving the school without an appropriate next step
- Good behaviour of students in lessons and around the site
- Calm atmosphere
- Teachers’ knowledge of their students and their planning to address different learning needs
- Closing of gaps for disadvantaged
- Safeguarding procedures
- 6th form which continues to flourish
- LIFE Centre which provides an effective means to enable pupils to improve their behaviour and learning
- Effective approach to attendance leading to improvement
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development including British values and democracy

The inspection team have left us with three areas they would like us to focus on:

- Intensify current actions to reduce pupils’ absence further
- Ensure all middle leaders’ analyses of pupils’ progress are accurate so that staff can identify those who are underachieving and help them to catch up quickly
- Ensure that differences between the progress of disadvantaged pupils and others continue to diminish

We will be working hard on these areas whilst maintaining and building upon the things which are going well.

Parents as partners

It is of vital importance that we work closely with you as the parents of our students in taking our school forward and building on this success. We are very grateful to those of you who were able to complete the ParentView questionnaire during the inspection. If you did not have a chance to do it then, please take the time to complete it now. It remains live on the Ofsted web-site at this link (please add link here) and we would like to encourage parents to make more use of this facility to give us feedback on an ongoing basis. If you are pleased with the education your child is receiving, please use ParentView to register this. Equally, if you have concerns, please contact us and let us know as we will always do our best to resolve issues with you.

I hope to see many of you at the Graphics exhibition on Wednesday this week. That is always a highlight of the year, with an incredibly high standard of GCSE and A-level work on display. I also hope to see as many Year 7 parents as possible at one of the Festival of Learning Days on 12 or 19 July. Our aim is to provide more opportunities for you to come into school to gain a good understanding of the work your son/daughter is doing with us and the opportunities available to them. Please look out for information through the web-site, Twitter and Facebook. We will always text you when there is something important but please keep a regular check so you don't miss anything.

It is great to be able to celebrate the Ofsted outcome with you. Thank you for the part you play every day in supporting the school and enabling us to provide a Good education for your son/daughter.

Yours sincerely

Sally Lees

Principal