



Friday, 12 May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ofsted report

Following our two day Ofsted inspection at the end of March, I am very pleased to be able to now share with you the final report from that inspection.

We had a team of five inspectors spend two days speaking to leaders, visiting lessons and observing the school in action. However, more importantly, they spoke with a lot of our students (chosen by them, not us) about what life is like at The Sittingbourne School. They left no stone unturned and as you can see from the attached report, the inspectors graded the school as “good” in all areas, identifying many positive things about the school.

With regards to our curriculum and the learning that takes place in the school, they commented on how “Staff have high aspirations for what all pupils can learn and achieve”. They commented on how, “Leaders have planned a carefully considered curriculum” and that, “pupils have access to a wide range of courses”. They also liked how, “Assessment is used precisely across a number of subject areas, where leaders carefully review the gaps in pupils’ knowledge so that future teaching can be more specifically targeted to help fill these gaps”.

On the topic of the support we give students, the inspectors commented on how our “well-considered careers programme, including in the sixth form, ensures pupils are informed about an increasingly wide range of career options” and how, “leaders ensure that pupils who struggle to read fluently receive a range of support to help develop these essential skills”. They also concluded that our “arrangements for safeguarding are effective”.

When looking at personal development and student attitudes, they identified how “Pupils are proud of how tolerant and supportive their school is” and how our Character education, “help pupils to learn about and discuss important ethical issues. Teachers guide pupils to explore sensitive topics such as coercive relationships. This supports pupils to be well informed and well prepared for life in modern Britain”.

I know that the behaviour of the students is something that all parents/carers want to know about so I am very happy that the inspectors saw what we see every day, which is, “The vast

majority of pupils behave well in school. Movement around the site is settled and there are few incidents of bullying" and that "Pupils are well focused in lessons, and staff generally manage any issues well".

Part of Ofsted's role is to identify areas to improve for the school and for one of them we require the help of every parent/carer. We need to increase the students' attendance to what it was before the pandemic. At present, despite our ongoing hard work, "too many pupils are missing out on their education" due to their high absence levels. We need your help to "ensure these pupils attend school more regularly and benefit from the education the school provides".

Please take the time to read the report as it gives a detailed summary of what life is like for your children at TSS. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding it.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Smith'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a smaller 'S'.

Mr N Smith
Headteacher