

Dear parents and carers,

10 March 2023

As you know, St Mark's have been inspected by Ofsted over the last 2 days. This was an ungraded inspection which differs from a graded inspection, because it does not result in individual graded judgements, but focuses on determining whether the school remains the same grade as at the school's previous graded inspection. It cannot change the overall effectiveness grade of the school. On very rare occasions an Inspection Team will issue an Outcome 2. This is where *'the school was previously judged to be good and it remains so, and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that it might have been judged outstanding if it had received a graded inspection instead of an ungraded inspection.'*

I will not be able to communicate the outcome with you formally until we receive the report in 18 days, however please rest assured that the Academy has performed exceptionally well in all areas.

Please read below the notes that leaders took throughout the day and feel so proud of the part you have played as parents and carers in this unprecedented journey of transformation.

### **Overall:**

- Vision Transformation for all comes through really strongly – highly ambitious SLT and Middle Leadership Team
- Quality of Teaching is impressive as is the Curriculum knowledge of Middle Leaders
- Pupils and Staff are really proud of their school
- Safeguarding arrangements are exceptionally strong.

### **Quality of Education**

- Subject leaders have thought carefully about curriculum and reflects school values – broad and diverse, clear ambition e.g. DT and English – leaders have looked beyond the NC
- KS4 – EBacc increasing and teaching is very strong
- Sequencing is clear and logical and systematic – English and MFL examples given. In Maths White Rose is used effectively with clear adaptations to meet pupils' needs
- Classroom – high degree of consistency and subject knowledge – clear explanations, complex ideas are broken down – modelling supports this. Pupils' can follow the curriculum and cope with pace of learning Inc. SEN students
- Questioning is interrogative and elaborative – MWB used to check to diagnostically and identify misconceptions
- Regular summative assessment is effective
- Reading plans e.g. star reader, 1:1 phonics, reading and buddy reading allows improvements
- Increasing SEN numbers – effective identification and primary liaison – leaders track and monitor progress and the review stage is prioritised. Teachers use context sheets and training to support pupils with SEND.

### **Behaviour:**

- Pupils' behaviour has been exemplary – highly positive attitudes to learning – low level disruption is rare – high expectations from teachers underpinned by clear strategies
- Students work well together and take learning seriously
- Pupils value rewards and the range of these
- 100% pupils feel safe.

### **Personal Development:**

- Comprehensive careers programme, PSHE and PD in place – Baker clause met in all areas
- Lifeology teaching is rigorous, as in all subject areas
- Daily coaching covers current affairs, debates and assemblies
- Equality groups, Eco groups, coaching captains – offer great opportunities and students' value – specific groups have been targeted
- Post 16 readers and mentors and monitors are a positive influence in the school
- Wide range of sports and outings – varied and valued
- Student Surveys 199 and overall very positive.

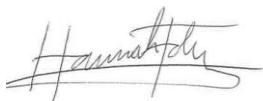
### **Staff wellbeing**

- All staff spoke with passion about the values in action and supportive environment
- Staff wellbeing is very well catered for
- Staff are proud, feel listened to, school has reduced data drops – air and share and you said, we did are all very much valued

St Mark's is transformed and transformational because of everyone within this community. I would like to pray for the continued success of the whole community and we continue to promote life in all its fullness (John 10).

With Love, Hope & Trust

Hannah Fahey



**Principal**