

01 December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Outcomes of our Ofsted Inspection

I am delighted to be able to finally share with you the outcomes from the recent Ofsted inspection. As you know we had a two day inspection where four inspectors spoke with members of our community, visited lessons and looked at our data. I'm sure you realise that this was an important visit, but one we have been expecting and preparing for since they last came in October 2012.

As you may know, the Ofsted framework continues to change but we adapted and approached the task as we always do – the St. Mark's way with team work, enthusiasm and a relentless dedication knowing that we have an exceptional offer for our students. Please take the time to read the report for yourself which will be available on our website, as there are some exceptional comments from the inspection team.

I would like to thank those parents who took the time to respond to the survey as your contribution also helped in securing such a positive outcome.

Our **Good with Outstanding** features is a fantastic achievement, and one that I am extremely proud of. We achieved this together, and the inspectors were able to see how far we have come since our last inspection having secured the best ever exam results this year. As noted by the Inspectors we have extremely high standards in every aspect of Academy life. Teaching and learning is excellent and it was clear to see that all students flourish. Our Values were abundantly evident to them as they spent time with us here at St. Mark's.

They could see that student safety is paramount to each and every one of us and as a result the culture of safeguarding is outstanding. There are many, many highlights but to pick out a few;

- The school's provision for the personal development and welfare of pupils is outstanding. It is highly enriching and supportive and focuses on 'values in action'.
- Pupils are confident, thoughtful and articulate.
- Leaders and teachers strongly advocate the school's core values of love, hope and trust. These values permeate the school.
- Pupils respect different views and said that they value their education and appreciate what teachers do for them. Pupils are proud of the inclusive nature of the Academy.
- Pupils behave well in lessons because they respect their teachers and each other. They are well prepared for the next stage of their education.
- Pupils value the education they receive. They are thoughtful, well prepared and ambitious for their futures. They value the diversity in the school and are proud to be part of the school
- Governors understand their role well and they bring a wide range of skills to the school, which they use to support improvement.

Principal Lisa Peterkin

- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding
- Careers guidance throughout the school is excellent, and pupils are well prepared for the next stage in their lives, both educationally and socially

I am particularly proud because it was clear to the inspectors that they were observing our normal practice - it was business as normal for us.

We will of course not get complacent and we will strive to not only maintain this high standard but to build on it and improve even further. There are always things to work on! We would also like to invite you to be involved in this next process and join us at our next extended leadership meeting where you and your child can contribute to our next steps in planning for the future.

Thank you. It is a privilege to be the principal of such a phenomenal school and I am extremely proud the inspectors could see and recognise just how wonderful I already knew the St Mark's community is.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Peterkin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa Peterkin
Principal