

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Principal: Tash Moriarty BA PGCE



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to advise you that we have now received our Ofsted report which I would encourage you to read. The report can be located on our website [Ofsted Report October 2016](#) and is also attached. It can also be located via the Ofsted website from Friday 25th November.

I hope you will find the additional context and interpretation below helpful.

I am very pleased that the report recognises the extent to which the past two years have left a challenging legacy for us but that the substantial and rapid improvements we have made are evident to see and have had noticeable impact. It was quite clear to us from the more detailed feedback we received during the inspection that we have addressed matters in exactly the right way and that the direction in which we are heading should lead us to considerably more favourable results in future.

In terms of the overall grade of the report, we are limited by the exam results of the past which we know not to be good enough. Since the most important impact measure a school has is the outcome of exams, we understand and accept that these do indeed require improvement. All of the work we are doing and the improvements we have recently seen are driven by our commitment to ensuring that exam results will be significantly better for our current and future students.

Despite the limitation that this past legacy has placed on the overall grade of our Ofsted report, I am deeply encouraged that the significant majority of observed practice was recognised to be very positive. The main theme you will read through the report is around consistency and the fact that a small proportion of teaching still needs to improve and also that a small proportion of students do not align fully to our high expectations of behaviour. The inspectors recognised how far we have come in this agenda and clearly acknowledged the appropriate response we are taking to further iron out these remaining inconsistencies.

‘The great majority of pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. They are polite and respectful of others, have good attitudes to their work and enjoy school’.

‘The school’s culture has been improved significantly. There is now a very clear focus on quality teaching and high standards of behaviour. A strong sense of optimism pervades the school.’

‘Senior leaders are...tackling the weaknesses with a steely determination and a robust emphasis on high quality as a minimum expectation.’

Having worked in six different schools during my career, predominantly in a leadership capacity, I know that ensuring consistency is a challenge that permeates even the most successful schools but that the urgency with which inconsistencies need to be addressed is greater when the start point is less secure. I am reassured that the inspection team recognised that we are **‘relentless in (our) resolve to improve the school and passionate about ensuring that pupils are given the best chance in life’**. We are certainly seeing improvements in all of our target areas on a regular basis but will continue to raise the bar, tackle underperformance and embed excellence.





I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for their continued support. The task of ensuring that The Harefield Academy becomes and remains an outstanding school is significantly facilitated by strong home school partnerships. I hope this report makes clear how changes were needed and the positive impact that these changes are having on your child's education. Your willingness to embrace such improvements is much appreciated and I am thoroughly confident that working together we will continue to build rapidly on our progress.

Yours sincerely,

Tash Moriarty
Principal