



Friday 3rd September 2021

Ofsted Report – July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following an Ofsted inspection conducted prior to the summer holidays on the 24th June, 7th and 8th July, I am delighted to inform you that Wodensborough Ormiston Academy is now officially a 'Good' school.

The full report has been detailed in a letter to the school, which will be on the school and Ofsted website shortly. In the meantime, we wanted to share the outcomes with you directly, as we are exceptionally proud of the measures which the school – including our students, staff, supportive parent body, Governors, Trust and wider school community - has taken since receiving a 'Requires Improvement' rating in February 2019.

As you will know, the entire school community has been working tirelessly to drive improvement over the last few years, and we are thrilled that Ofsted has recognised the "great strides forward" which we have taken. The report confirms our successes and highlights standout parts of our school, particularly the breadth and depth of our curriculum, support of our staff, and inclusivity of our students.

There are so many aspects of our school that we are proud of, and we are pleased that many of these areas have been recognised in Ofsted's report, including:

- The senior team's "inspirational leadership," and the teamwork which extends throughout the school, including the observation that "all the staff want to do the best for every one of the pupils." More so, the report notes that "senior leaders support and energise the whole school community."
- The school's "exceptional" response to the pandemic, including the establishment of effective remote learning, and work to ensure that students had the facilities they needed to learn. The report also notes that the school "planned pupils' return to school imaginatively, recognising especially the need to support their mental health."
- The "radically improved" structure of the curriculum, including "major improvements in the teaching of modern and ancient languages [which has] meant that more pupils want to study a language at key stage 4."
- The breadth of subjects which students with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND) can and do study at the school.
- The "strong subject knowledge" of teachers in the main school and sixth form, as well as their ability to "explain ideas well", use specialist vocabulary and empower students to do the same.



- That we have placed “pupils’ personal development... at the heart of the academy.” The report notes that the school’s teaching “provides pupils with the social and cultural knowledge that enrich their lives as citizens.”
- Ormiston Academies Trust’s (OAT) important role in providing effective support for the school in curriculum development and in financial management.
- Of perhaps most importance to us, Ofsted noted that our students themselves have recognised the improvements in the school and say that they feel safe.

Of course, there are still areas where we can improve upon and positively drive standards, and we are determined to maintain the momentum which has benefitted the school across the past few years. We will also continue to work hard on the areas we’re exceeding in, to push for even greater success.

I am confident that with the continued support and hard work of our school leadership team, teachers, governors, OAT and yourselves, we are well positioned to enact these changes, and to continue this hugely positive upwards trajectory. While the school will never rest on its laurels, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the hard work and determination of the entire school community across the past few years, and to thank you all for your continued support in enabling us to successfully drive improvements at the school.

We have always sought to provide all our students with the highest quality education and opportunities possible and will continue to develop our work. In the coming weeks and months, we will be working hard to consolidate this progress, as we continue on our journey of improvement, as an increasingly high-performing, welcoming and successful school in the community.

Thank you again for your continued encouragement and as always, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Leigh Moore