

Principal: Stephen Dixon

3rd October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Ofsted Monitoring Visit Report

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the feedback from our latest monitoring visit from Ofsted which recognises the strong progress we are making across the academy.

The inspector, who visited last month, saw strong evidence of improvement in areas such as teaching, learning and student attainment. The inspection report highlighted the effective action we are taking to strengthen the school and confirmed that the measures we have put in place are already having a significant impact.

I am particularly pleased that the inspector highlighted our high expectations and commitment to strong achievement and the way this is reflected in students' "*improved attitudes*" to their learning. Likewise, it is gratifying that the report recognises how positive students, staff and parents have been about the improvements underway at our school.

Ofsted also praised a number of other strengths, including:

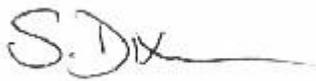
- Our "*calm and positive*" learning environment;
- Staff's hard work with students and families to improve attendance;
- The additional targeted support we provide students through our Closing the Gap Coordinators and challenging tasks for higher ability learners;
- The "*great care*" we give to students with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who are vulnerable;
- Our "*bespoke support*" and coaching for staff;
- The way our governors challenge school leaders on the impact of their work;
- The support we receive from United Learning.

The inspector also highlighted students' good behaviour during their visit and commented that the vast majority of students were "*thoroughly immersed in their learning*". This is a real credit to our students and is evidence of the positive impact that our new behaviour policy is having on students' learning, engagement and attitudes.

Whilst we fully recognise the challenges ahead in ensuring greater consistency and maintaining high standards, this report is highly encouraging and is an important endorsement of our approach. It is also very welcome recognition of the hard work and dedication of everyone involved – students, staff, parents and governors – in helping us bring out 'the best in everyone' at Barnsley Academy.

Thank you for all your support and very best wishes for the rest of the term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Dixon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Dixon
Principal