

5th December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

The OFSTED report for Newcastle Academy, following the inspection that took place on the 13th and 14th November 2019, an emailed copy of the report has been sent out today and the report is now available on our website www.newcastleacademy.org. If you require a paper copy of this report please contact reception on 01782 667650.

As you will see from the report Newcastle Academy has been graded as Requires Improvement with 3 out of the 4 judgement areas graded as Good. This means that we are no longer in the category of requiring significant improvement.

It is clear to see that OFSTED recognised the recent significant improvements that have taken place in the academy since the change in leadership:

“Newcastle Academy has been transformed since its last inspection in February 2018.”

There are numerous positive comments contained in the report that highlight the improvements and progress made at the academy since the last inspection and that reflect the judgements made during the inspection.

In Behaviour and attitudes the inspection team commented that:

- “Staff provide excellent care for pupils. As a result, pupils enjoy school and feel safe and secure. Bullying is rare. When it happens, staff deal with it well. Pupils told inspectors they trust the school’s adults to look after them.”
- “Pupils behave well in lessons and throughout the day. Many pupils told inspectors how much behaviour has improved.”
- “Pupils are happy, confident and polite. The school is a friendly community where visitors are given a warm welcome.”
- “Pastoral care is a strength. The school has a highly effective pastoral team, and all staff see caring for pupils as an important part of their job.”

Within the Quality of Education judgement inspectors noted several positives as well as outlining areas that we need to continue to focus on:

- “The education the school provides has improved considerably since it was last inspected.”
- “The school is now fully staffed with qualified teachers. Learning is organised effectively in almost all subjects.”
- “Teaching is increasingly helping pupils to learn well.”
- “The school has several strong subjects, including English, physical education (PE) and mathematics.”
- “Staff support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) well. Teachers take pupils’ needs into account when planning learning. Teaching assistants provide the right support in class when pupils need it.”

Under Leadership and Management of the academy the Lead inspector and his team reported that:

- “Leaders and staff form a hard-working and united team that wants the best for all pupils. The education they provide has improved considerably”
- “The principal and senior leaders, well supported by the United Endeavour Trust, provide a clear and persuasive vision for high-quality education. “
- “The school’s staff are very committed to this vision and to seeing the school continue to improve. Leaders are considerate of the well-being of staff.”
- “Leaders put great effort into developing pupils’ life skills and in broadening their horizons. For example, pupils in Years 7 and 8 have ‘character curriculum’ lessons that focus on improving confidence, team-working and self-esteem.”

I would like to thank all parents who gave feedback to OFSTED and confirmed the improvements that have been seen at the academy.

Finally, I want to thank all the Newcastle Academy students who were fantastic during the inspection, they spoke honestly and politely to the inspection team and gave a true insight into what it is like to be a student here.

This report is incredibly pleasing and I am very proud as the Principal to be able to lead this academy, we are aware of the continued improvements required and have already started to action plans in these areas as well as pushing forward on building on the improvements already seen.

The Academy’s leadership team will be able to provide further details and answer any questions at the next Parents’ Forum, due to take place on Thursday, 16th January 2020 at 5pm.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Henshaw'.

Mr J Henshaw
Principal