



6th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are already aware, Ansford Academy was recently inspected by Ofsted in a full graded inspection. Following the inspection, the school was judged as 'Requires Improvement'. The full report is attached to this email and will be uploaded to the school website and the Ofsted website in the coming days.

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of Governors of Ansford Academy. My role is to ensure that the Governing Body work as a coherent group and to ensure that we both support and challenge school leaders to ensure that all children at Ansford receive the best education possible.

Although we are disappointed the school has received this judgement, it is important for parents and carers to understand the significant amount of school improvement work that Rachel and her team have undertaken since she took up her post in September 2021. Since her arrival at Ansford, Rachel, along with the wider staff team, has addressed multiple areas of school underperformance as well as the wide ranging impacts of the pandemic on our young people. Ansford is in a much improved position due to the whole team's determination, hard work and focus on making sure that every child is happy and achieving at school. The Governing Body have complete confidence that, under her leadership, the school is on the right trajectory to achieve a 'Good' grade at its next inspection.

Naturally, you may be concerned about some of the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted. However, I want to reassure you that these areas had been identified by school leaders prior to the Inspection and there were already detailed plans in place to address these development areas. Governors and leaders are focussed on ensuring that these improvements are made in a timely manner.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Ofsted Framework, I would like to draw your attention to the following: a school cannot achieve a good in *Leadership and Management* if they receive a 'Requires Improvement' judgement in the *Quality Of Education*. This was the case in our most recent inspection. However, inspectors recognised the huge amount of work that has been done by the staff team to develop and improve the curriculum and the wider school improvement progress made from the point at which Rachel was appointed.

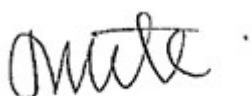
During verbal feedback and in the final report, the inspectors were clear that there are many areas where our children and staff are thriving including:

- Ansford Academy is a welcoming community. Pupils greet visitors with confidence and warmth.
- Pupils have positive relationships with adults and feel safe in school.
- The culture of safeguarding is very strong. The tenacity and fight the staff show for the rights of the young people is huge.
- Staff are incredibly proud of working in this school. They are proud of the work that has been done by the leadership team to improve the school.
- The school has clear routines for ensuring good behaviour from pupils.
- Pupils are proud to take on leadership responsibilities within the school.
- Pupils feel listened to when they make suggestions to the school council about how the school could improve.
- Pupils appreciate the range of extra-curricular clubs and visits that are available.
- Pupils enjoy a broad range of courses...these prepare them well for future education and employment within the local area.
- The school identifies accurately the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- The personal development curriculum has been carefully planned so that pupils are well prepared for adult life.

There will be a further graded inspection within the next two and a half years and no sooner than eighteen months so that the impact of planned improvement work can be reviewed.

We welcome any questions you might have about the report and will provide an opportunity in the New Year for interested parents to meet with Governors informally to discuss any concerns you may have. If you have a question of a more urgent nature, please contact me via [clerk.governors@ansford.net](mailto:clerk.governors@ansford.net)

Yours faithfully



Jennie White  
Chair of Governors