



13 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware the campus has undergone significant change over the past years, with the merger of two schools, the appointment of a new Headteacher and, of course, the pandemic. OFSTED last visited the campus in 2016 and, due to the pandemic, the last validated external GCSE/A-Level Results for the school were in 2019, as such Trustees were keen to get an external view on where the school is, as part of its strategic quality assurance. To this end, Trustees commissioned an external Peer Review to be undertaken across the campus by Debbie Clinton, a former HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectors), OFSTED Inspector and CEO for a large, national Multi Academy Trust. Debbie spent five days in total scrutinising the school and spoke to students, staff and trustees to evidence her findings.

We are delighted to inform you that this process was very positive and found that the school was in an exceptionally strong position and had dealt with the challenges of the pandemic with agility, confidence and professionalism. They noted that the school had made significant progress across a wide variety of key areas at a time it would have been very easy for the school to regress or standstill. The final report is over 30 pages long, and the intended audience was only ever internal, but we have shared below some of the key findings and recommendations. The Trustees are clear in their commitment to ensure BGLC continues to thrive and provide an excellent educational provision.

Trustees would like to thank students, parents and staff for the support they have shown the school, particularly over the past year, and are excited for what the future holds. We are confident that the staff body will continue to work tirelessly to meet the ever changing demands of their roles and ensure the recommendations highlighted are acted upon to continue to develop BGLC into the best possible school in Leicestershire.

Key Strengths

1. Senior Leadership is strong with a crystal-clear vision for BGLC students and families. School improvement planning is incisive, sharp and self-evaluation is, in the main, pin-point accurate.
2. Senior leaders are agile and react quickly to identified need (e.g. re-structuring the senior leadership team to accommodate a change to sixth form senior leadership).
3. Middle leaders are similarly astute. Improvement planning at faculty and subject level is impressive and focused on the right things.
4. Professional development (for all) is increasingly at the heart of the progress the campus has made. This is evident in the improvements in behaviour, teaching, pedagogy and clear strategies used to enhance learning and understanding.
5. The BGLC curriculum is very well established, and it increasingly provides broad, balanced and enriching learning opportunities.
6. Students' behaviour and attitudes to learning are always improving. This contributes to the warm, welcoming learning environment much praised by students and staff.

"The Headteacher is very well supported by his senior team. Together, they ensure a clear vision and drive for improvement across the academy. The principles at the heart of the BGLC vision (especially those rooted in 'CARE' and 'LORIC') are clear and writ large everywhere across the BGLC campus"

“It is clear that huge strides have been made with regards the ‘embedding a culture of kindness’ priority. From the polite and well-mannered students to the smiley, warm and welcoming staff (and this began perfectly in the Main Reception), this is a happy, warm campus where everyone is warmly welcomed. Students and staff were, universally, at pains to point this out”.

“It was immensely pleasing to see the recent significant investment made into perimeter fencing across the campus. This is a vital step with regards securing a safe, contained physical environment. It was equally pleasing to hear of a recent, successful external audit of the BGLC Single Central Record”.

“Students described BGLC as a very safe and supportive community in which to learn. Students were very clear that they could approach any BGLC adult about any concern and know it would be dealt with – including bullying. Students were especially complimentary about the provision for their LGBTQ+ peers – in particular, the Wednesday afternoons support group”.

“There is a clear commitment by all leaders to a truly broad curriculum across BGLC. The pastoral curriculum described in the BGLC Behaviour and Standards Improvement Timeline for 21-22 is comprehensive and wide-ranging. The mapping of this curriculum across the LORIC commitment is powerful and leaders are to be congratulated in this important part of the BGLC culture”.


“Leaders should be congratulated on the progress clearly made with regards Behaviour and Attitudes since the merger of the two schools in September 2019. The priority continuing to be given to improved pupil behaviour (as articulated in the Campus Improvement Plan) is reaping dividends in a number of measures – evidenced clearly. All of the staff interviewed confirmed real progress with regards to improvements in this area – especially regarding the ambition to embed a culture of kindness by August 2022. This was echoed by students and seen during the visit on a number of occasions.”

To improve further, Academy leaders should:

1. Develop a routine calendared approach to Stakeholder surveys and wider stakeholder events, their evaluations and next steps.
2. Produce a BGLC strategic plan for Reading with a very precise, narrow focus upon success criteria.
3. Ensure greater consistency in the quality of tutoring by placing year groups together physically on site.
4. Further improve the Dining Areas through celebrating food, nutrition and health in display and ensuring that menus and menu pricing are visible everywhere.
5. Continue to drive expectations of behaviour and uniform standards *relentlessly* with staff, students and families.

We hope that in sharing the findings of this report you feel confident that your child is in a strong educational setting, determined to meet the needs of all learners. Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely



Connor Acton
Chair of Trustees