



## DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL: Mr S Gibson

16 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, Duke's School was visited by Ofsted in the last week before Christmas to carry out a Section 8 Inspection of the school. A Section 8 inspection is an opportunity for Ofsted to monitor the progress being made by a school from the previous inspection. I am delighted to inform you that we have now received feedback from Ofsted and can share the outcomes with you.

The inspection concluded that **"senior leaders and the trust are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement."**

The report praised the speed of action in addressing areas for improvement and the progress that could be seen in improving pupil behaviour, attendance and literacy. The inspection scrutinised our plans for improvement and found evidence of these improvements in lessons, behaviours and attitudes. Pupils told the inspector that they recognised the changes that have taken place in the classroom, and how they are *"regularly challenged to be critical thinkers"*. The report recognises that reading is also improving amongst pupils at Duke's, with pupil ability having *"improved markedly"* in comparison with national data.

Other highlights from the report include:

- *"Leaders at all levels are working in a coordinated manner, where expertise is shared and everyone is heading in the same direction."*
- Staff and pupils state that behaviour has improved since the previous inspection through the school's approach to exclusion and a new, consistent approach to behaviour in the classroom.
- The school has implemented a new approach which has reinvigorated teaching and learning.
- Teachers are more effective in planning how they can stretch and challenge pupils.
- Pupils feel that they are set demanding work and that *"they can't coast along"*.
- The school has taken steps to improve pupils' attendance and reduce the number of pupils who are persistently absent.

This report is an important milestone for the school, and allows us a moment to reflect on and celebrate the hard work of staff in partnership with our supportive parents. However, we will continue to maintain the pace of our relentless drive for improvement in the days and weeks ahead in order to achieve our high aspirations for our pupils.

The full Ofsted report letter can be found on the school's website, [www.dukes.ncea.org.uk](http://www.dukes.ncea.org.uk), and will also be published on the Ofsted website, [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk), in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Gibson  
Principal



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