

Our Ref: STK/lmh

20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

You will know that the Academy was visited on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April by HMI Andrew Lovett and Ofsted Inspector Suzanne Richards to conduct our latest monitoring visit.

I am delighted to report that the inspection team concluded that leaders and managers continue to take effective action for the removal of special measures.

The inspection team were delighted to see that many of the improvements that we have implemented are now having an impact and that in their opinion the culture of the whole Academy is improving:

*'Many of the improvements that leaders implemented in the last year are now coming to fruition. The vast majority of systems are in place and leaders are focused on ensuring that the culture of the school supports achievement for all its pupils.'*

Inspectors were particularly pleased with recent improvements in higher expectations by teachers, especially of our most able students. They observed students genuinely thinking hard to produce improved work. Our new curriculum received praise as did the further development of teacher's skills:

*'School leaders have been working with teachers and pupils to raise expectations of what pupils can achieve. There have been significant improvements in this aspect of the school's work. All pupils, including the most able pupils, are now being set work that encourages them to stop and think. To a large extent, this is the result of a revised curriculum that has been implemented across the multi-academy trust's schools. Leaders are ensuring that teachers have the skills to deliver the curriculum by organising effective training.'*

The team were also really pleased with the progress our most disadvantaged students are making:

*'Leaders have made significant improvements to provision for disadvantaged pupils. They have placed a greater emphasis on ensuring that these pupils get the attention they need in lessons. They are making sure pupils are actively involved in lessons by answering questions and receiving good-quality feedback that helps them to improve. Their progress is tracked, and support is put in place if they fall behind. As a result of this work, disadvantaged pupils are making better progress.'*

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You may remember that inspectors were critical of attendance of students in the past. Following this most recent visit I am really pleased that the inspection noted significant improvements in this area:

*'Leaders are now addressing poor attendance robustly. They are analysing which groups of pupils are absent and they are tackling the issue with much greater urgency. Pastoral staff are working with pupils and families to overcome any barriers they face in attending school every day. The increased focus has had a significant impact. Attendance is rising sharply and, although not there yet, is now approaching national average levels. The attendance of disadvantaged pupils is also improving rapidly.'*

The inspection team recognised that students' attitudes are more positive and that the work in their books is improving, especially in Maths and History. They noted that behaviour of students continues to improve.

Inspectors were pleased to see more activities available outside of the classroom but did comment that they would like to see more students taking advantage of these opportunities.

The main area for further improvement is Literacy. Whilst both inspectors saw improvements in how students answered questions and spoke in lessons, their written work is still not strong enough. There are still inconsistencies in how teachers correct spelling, punctuation and grammar and students are not being taught well enough how to write quality pieces of extended writing. This will be a major focus of our work over the coming months, along with further improvements to consistency in the classroom.

We are unsure if we will receive further monitoring visits or move to a full inspection to be regraded; however, the Ofsted team were very pleased with what they saw and are very optimistic about the future at Hanham Woods Academy.

I have already spoken to students in assembly and thanked them for their hard work and efforts. Can I take this opportunity to thank you again for your on-going support of the Academy.

Yours sincerely



**Mr S T Kneller**  
**Academy Principal**