

OFSTED Monitoring Visit Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to write to you to share details of our OFSTED monitoring visit in September. The full monitoring report is now published on our website and will also be published over the course of the coming days on the OFSTED website.

The key headline from the report is the judgement that **“leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures”**. It states that we “have built on the good work since the last inspection” and underlines the fact that this is now our second successful monitoring visit within a few months, adding that **“the school has turned a corner....positive change continues to gather momentum”**.

Our continual raising of expectations and standards has also been noted- the report states that **“there has been a phenomenal change in pupils’ behaviour since the last monitoring visit”**.

As you are no doubt aware, I have now been in role as Principal for just over a year and we have a completely new leadership team in place since the turn of the year- it is therefore particularly pleasing that the report confirms that:

- “strong appointments have been made to leadership posts”
- “the right people are in the right places to do the right jobs”
- “leaders are clear about priorities and waste no time in bringing about necessary changes”

I feel very proud to lead our whole team of staff, who have all worked tirelessly to achieve improvement in all areas of school life in recent months. The range of improvement is fully recognised in the monitoring report, which notes that:

- “the safeguarding team deals with concerns appropriately and quickly”
- “attendance has improved considerably”
- “pupils’ punctuality is much better”
- “teachers take into account pupils’ special educational needs when planning learning”
- “leaders have been particularly successful in getting pupils to read for pleasure”
- “pupils say staff care for them and support them very well”
- “pupils’ attitudes to learning are much more positive”

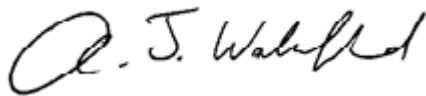
As always, I must also acknowledge the work of the wider community and all stakeholders in helping us arrive at this point in our improvement journey- your support of us and your children as parents/ carers over the last year has been incredible. The report also underlines the effective support we receive from governors with the observation that “governors keep a close check on leaders’ work and ask challenging questions...they know about the improvements and play an active part in contributing to the school’s success”. In addition, the report notes that we “work well” in partnership with our colleagues at REACH

Alternative Provision School in Kings Heath. As I have said before, as a team of staff, we remain humble, and we will continue to access all of the support networks on offer to us as we continue to learn, develop, and work towards our ambition of becoming the best alternative provision school in Birmingham.

The monitoring report describes us as “honest and realistic”, and as you would expect, we fully accept all findings of the report; we are moving quickly on addressing the areas for development raised around further broadening our curriculum and improving the support we offer students with education, health and care plans. Although we achieved our best ever GCSE results last year, we acknowledge that they are not yet good enough- now that we are fully staffed in all subjects including Science for the first time, we expect to improve our outcomes significantly in 2020.

We will continue to work relentlessly on our journey towards becoming a “good” school that “shapes the futures” of our fantastic students effectively. Once more, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this letter, my direct e-mail is andrew.wakefield@theedgeacademy.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

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

Andrew Wakefield

Principal