

16th November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Our Ofsted Report: 'GOOD'

The Ofsted Report and the judgments it makes on the performance of the school provides a very pleasing read. It paints a picture which, I believe, many will recognise – a school which has come a tremendous way in a relatively short period of time and which now has much to celebrate.

Rapid change of this magnitude is simply not achievable without a huge collective effort from across the whole school community. Ofsted rightly credits our outstanding Headteacher and her inspirational leadership for much of the progress which has been achieved. I doubt that this will come as a surprise to anyone who has spent much time in her company. She is a remarkable individual. However, I know that Mrs Gant would be the first to pay tribute to the whole of her staff who've responded magnificently to the challenges she has laid before them. With her guidance and encouragement, it is they who've worked so hard and so conscientiously to play their part in delivering the improvements which Ofsted required of us, following their previous inspection, and we are enormously grateful to them.

I am equally pleased that the Ofsted Inspectors have acknowledged the journey which the Governing Body has also been on in recent years and the effective role they judge the governors to now play in supporting and challenging school leaders, as well as providing a clear strategic direction for the improvement of the school. I often find myself saying to others how our students are our greatest ambassadors.

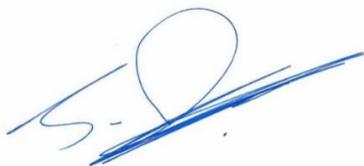
So, it comes as no surprise to me that their positive behaviours, respect for all those around them and their positive attitude to learning have been acknowledged by Ofsted. Of course, parents/carers have a massive role to play in reinforcing those values and behaviours and I thank you for your encouragement and support these last few years.

It would be all too easy to suppose that the job is done, that it is now a case of 'steady as she goes' and the school settling for what we have achieved. On the contrary; Ofsted have given us some valuable pointers on where we can improve and areas where further work is still required. The governors have already met with the Headteacher and senior leaders to consider how these can be addressed as quickly as possible. Our journey does not stop at 'Good'.

In actual fact, as I have said and written previously, our journey of improvement at Edwinstree has never been about simply 'getting the badge'. Though Ofsted's recognition of the strong progress which has been made comes as a welcome relief, our ambitions have always been focused on what really matters: giving the students in our care, the best possible education and the opportunity to thrive. So we press on, building on this terrific achievement, continuing to celebrate 'the wonderful in everyone' but conscious there is more to do.

For this brief moment though, let us take the time to congratulate, to celebrate and, especially, to thank all those who have helped us get to where we are today – officially: **a 'Good' school !**

Yours sincerely



John Boulter
Chair of Governors

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