

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our recent Section 5 Ofsted Inspection in March 2015 I have composed a summary of our inspection report. The report will be published on the Ofsted website on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and is available through the school website, too. Those parents who receive communication by email will be emailed a copy with this letter. If you would like a hard copy then these are available from the school reception for you or your son / daughter to collect.

The two headline judgements are:

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Requires Improvement
<b>Sixth Form</b>	Good

The new Ofsted framework, which came into place in September 2014 and has been updated twice since then is very unforgiving in many respects. Leaving the Sixth Form aside just for the moment, the focus is very firmly on four aspects of a school's performance:

- 5 or more A\* - C Grades at GCSE including English and Maths,
- Progress in English,
- Progress in Maths,
- The progress made by students who attract Pupil Premium funding (referred to by the government and Ofsted as 'disadvantaged pupils', and comprising predominantly of students who qualify for free school meals in the last 6 years).

The framework is categoric; if any one of the first three factors falls below the national standards, then 'a school cannot be judged good'.

In common with many schools, students' attainment at St Peter and St Paul does fall below national, and so a judgement of 'Requires Improvement' was always the most likely outcome of our inspection. We now embark on the journey to being judged a 'Good' academy overall as soon as possible.

On the basis of the current national framework, I believe the judgement to be a fair one, and we shall certainly benefit from the increased monitoring by national inspectors that will follow during the next couple of years. When the report is published, you will notice a distinct change in tone compared with previous reports. This is due to the significant changes in the criteria that is used to form judgements against the Ofsted criteria.

However, throughout the inspection, and in the final feedback to governors and myself, the inspection team made many very positive comments relating to what is already in place at St Peter and St Paul. They acknowledged that the areas we had already identified and were focusing on to secure improved outcomes for our students are accurate.

The main body of the report falls into five broad sections, and I shall give a brief flavour of each with *direct quotes in italics*:

1. The opening section, **Leadership and management**, considers the work of myself and the senior leadership team, including faculty leaders, subject leaders and the governors. Overall, because the school has not yet been successful in sustaining attainment at National measures the overall judgement is Requires Improvement. It is recognised that the procedures and systems are in place to embed the recommended improvements and that *“there is a positive ethos in the academy in which teaching and good behaviour can flourish”*.

Central to everything that the inspectors look at is the extent to which our academy is promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and development of all our students. We consider this area to be a very positive aspect across the whole academy and I'm delighted that inspectors agreed and judged this to be strong. This is recognised in the report, as are the impact of our principles and values in promoting tolerance and respect.

2. **Behaviour and Safety** have both been judged as Good, and this is very pleasing. Safeguarding, and the way in which we work hard to keep children safe, has been highlighted as a strength of our work. I have drawn together four or five comments within this section of the report:

- *The behaviour of students is good. They are polite and friendly towards staff, visitors and each other. There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere around the academy, without the need for close adult supervision. Students' standards of school uniform are high. There is no graffiti or litter around the site.*
- *Students have very positive attitudes to learning. They work hard and want to do well.*
- *Disruption to learning caused by poor behaviour is very rare.*
- *The academy's work to keep students safe and secure is good. Students say they feel safe in the academy.*

3. The **Quality of Teaching** is judged as Requires Improvement on the basis that *“The quality of teaching is improving, but it remains inconsistent”* and *“Teachers do not always set tasks for their students that closely match the range of different abilities in each class”*. In other words, there are inconsistencies. I cannot argue with that and we are constantly looking to improve the learning experience for each student and will continue to work hard to iron out any variations. However, I am pleased that there is recognition that:

*“Teachers have a good knowledge of their subjects, and are very committed to doing the best for their students. Teachers know their students very well as individuals. Relationships between adults and students are warm, positive and respectful”*.

The second key area for development that inspectors highlight in this section is that marking and feedback, whilst it is *“frequent and detailed”*, *“does not always include helpful feedback to show students how to improve their work.”* This is an area that all teachers will continue to focus on developing over the coming weeks and months.

I am pleased that the improvements that have been made, and that will continue to be made, in English and Maths have been recognised by the inspection team. *“Recent changes made by senior leaders and the teachers in charge of English and Mathematics have improved the quality of teaching. More effective teaching and feedback ensures that students are now making faster progress in literacy and reading. The quality of teaching in Mathematics has improved because teachers now make more accurate assessments of students' achievements, so students have a clearer idea of how to improve their work and teachers give more effective individual help when students find a topic difficult”*.

You have my assurance that as a whole staff we will focus relentlessly on ensuring that we deliver more consistent high quality teaching that impacts further on the outcomes for all of our students.

4. As I have explained at the top of this summary the **Achievement of Pupils** Requires Improvement, and is at the heart of our overall judgement. I am pleased that the inspection team have mentioned individual subjects such as Spanish and also that our overall outcomes are on track to improve this year and beyond. There are improvements to embed in relation to the

percentage of students that attain 5 A\*- C GCSE Grades (including English and Maths), the need to accelerate the rates of progress in Maths and also for our disadvantaged students.

We are quite rightly proud of the diversity of our student population, including the range of abilities we cater for as well as our inclusive ethos and the fact that all students progress into education, employment or further training once they have completed their studies at St Peter and St Paul. One measure of progress that was not considered in detail by the inspection team is Value Added, which is a measure of the amount of progress a student makes from the starting point in Year 7 (Key Stage 2 Level) and Year 11 examination results (GCSE Grades). All subjects at St Peter and St Paul are either above or close to the national average; this shows our students achieved well compared to where they started from at the end of KS2. In addition, our most able students achieved 1025.9, which is well above the National Average of 1000.3.

5. The **Sixth Form** provision is judged to be Good. Whilst we were confident that this would indeed be the case, it is reassuring to have our own evaluations affirmed by the national inspectorate. This whole section reads very positively; I have restricted myself to just three comments in this brief summary:

- *As a result of their good achievement, all students who left the sixth form in 2014 were able to follow the route of their choice: either entering higher education or gaining an apprenticeship. Many gained places at the most prestigious universities.*
- *The quality of teaching in the sixth form is consistently good. Leaders check teaching closely to make sure it is of high quality. Students appreciate the detailed feedback they get on the assessed pieces of work they complete, so they know how to improve. As a result students feel well prepared for their examinations.*
- *Students have very positive attitudes to the subjects they are studying. They say they enjoy very good relationships with their teachers, who know them well as individuals and willingly offer them extra help when they ask for it. Sixth formers are well integrated into the wider life of the academy. Mixed-age tutor groups give sixth formers many chances to carry out leadership roles.*

I hope that you find the summary above helpful. I do believe the final outcomes of the inspection to be fair against the current Ofsted criteria. You could be forgiven, if reading that first half page of the report, for thinking that St Peter and St Paul is doing little right; nothing could be further from the truth, and the report says that very clearly. We are not perfect, and as in any school or academy we know that some areas do require improvement. Our own self-evaluation and school development plans highlight precisely the areas highlighted by the inspection and we will work relentlessly to ensure the necessary developments are made.

As ever, I thank parents for their support of our academy. I will, of course, gladly meet with any parents who would like to discuss any aspect of the report in more detail. I have set aside Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 5.00 pm to meet with any parents who would like to meet myself and the senior leadership team. Please email [sspp@sspp.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:sspp@sspp.lincs.sch.uk) or contact the school on 01522 871400 to let us know in advance that you will be attending so we can provide the correct amount of seating and refreshments. When you confirm your attendance, if there is any particular area you require clarification on please include this in your email.

We are now required to develop an Action Plan within the next month, and one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) will be visiting us later in the year to discuss and monitor with governors and myself our plans to address the areas identified in the report. As monitoring reports are received from HMI, I will share the key findings with you so that you are kept abreast of the ways in which we are addressing the points raised in the report.

Yours sincerely



D Keogh  
Headteacher