

4 November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

## Ofsted Report

The Ofsted report from our inspection in June 2022 has now been published and is available on our website:

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/ofsted/>

This report outlines the strengths and areas for improvement at the time of inspection.

I am delighted to see that the report acknowledged the school's good sixth-form provision, noting that students in the sixth form have a positive experience in school and achieve well.

It is also pleasing that inspectors recognised how well our personal development curriculum prepares pupils for life in modern Britain. Pupils 'know how to stay safe'.

Teachers are well-trained in delivering the reading curriculum. As a result, pupils receive appropriate help if they fall behind their peers. This ensures they become confident and fluent readers.

During the inspection, however, the team identified concerns about the effectiveness of the school's safeguarding records. The well-documented challenges of the pandemic led to a sharp increase in the number of young people experiencing concerns over their emotional wellbeing. The wave of COVID which went through the Academy in the spring term greatly reduced our capacity across all areas of our work.

We accept fully the inspection team's findings. I would like to reassure you that my team and I, supported by the Trust, have taken swift action to address the key issue of safeguarding outlined in the report. We have trained two additional Designated Safeguarding Leads. We have also tightened our processes to ensure accurate records are completed in a timely manner.

The Trust has put in place additional support and challenge to ensure all areas identified continue to improve. I am confident, therefore, that when Ofsted return, we will be able to demonstrate that we have taken the steps necessary to address the issue. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on securing continued rapid improvements across the board for the young people at the Academy.

If you have any concerns or comments regarding the report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### OPEN Academy

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I will finish by thanking you all for your support in providing feedback to the inspectors through the parent surveys. I remain keen to work in partnership with you and our students to continue our improvement at the Academy

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JF' or 'Jon Ford', written in a cursive style.

Jon Ford  
Principal