



18th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted Inspection Report

As you will be aware, our school underwent a thorough inspection by Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the overall quality of education provided by our school and to ensure that we meet the highest standards of teaching, learning, and student and staff well-being. The inspection covered a wide range of areas, including the quality of our curriculum offer, the effectiveness of leadership and management, the personal development and behaviour of our students, and the quality of teaching and learning.

We are pleased that we are now able to be able to share the report with you. Please find the full report attached and on our website. Our overall grade continues to be good, however we are delighted that we achieved the grade outstanding for behaviour and attitudes across the school. We are happy that the inspection process reflected the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our entire school community.

The report is a summary of our strengths and provides recommendations for further improvement. During the inspection itself, I and other SLT team members were alongside the Ofsted team through the two days, and this provided us with a wealth of useful feedback. What was clear through this process was the amount of overwhelming positive feedback; we were told just how close we were to achieving outstanding judgements for leadership and other areas too.

Our overall awarded grades are as follows:

Overall effectiveness - Good
The quality of education - Good
Behaviour and attitudes - Outstanding
Personal development - Good
Leadership and management - Good
Early years provision - Good
Sixth -form provision - Good

The two key areas to improve are:

1. Teachers' subject knowledge is not fully secure in the teaching of phonics. Some pupils opt to use a range of other strategies before phonics to decode what they read. Leaders need to continue to embed the phonics programme for more formal learners and ensure there is sharp focus on staff's subject knowledge and expectations of pupils.

Verbally, throughout the inspection, we were told that phonics overall is good, and they could see the significant improvement made in this area. However, it is felt that it needs strengthening, as sometimes not all staff (including support staff), are teaching using 'pure sounds' and not all formal learners are 'yet' using this as their first strategy to decode words. We are on the right path but





need to sharpen and further develop this with some of our learners. We will continue to develop this area though out this academic year.

2. For some pupils, the post-14 curriculum is not designed to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes. Leaders do not fully assure themselves that curriculum goals are as ambitious as possible. As a result, there are a small minority of pupils who are not fully prepared for the next stage in their education. Leaders need to ensure that the curriculum is sufficiently ambitious so that all pupils have what they need to be successful when they leave the school.

This one we find slightly more frustrating, as again we were told during inspection that, because of the successfully implemented curriculum, children were now remembering and learning more. This was shared in the context of our effective curriculum. It was felt that as our learners go through school, they may need more formal accreditation pathways and curriculum opportunities to extend them even further. We were advised to have it in place in case we need it in the future. The good news is that the Post 14 are already on this, ready for when learners may need it in the coming months and years. They are reviewing the accreditation we offer and ensuring going forward the curriculum accreditation offer is as ambitious as it can be.

This inspection has reinforced our belief that we are providing a high-quality education to our students. It affirms our commitment to delivering an enriching learning experience and supporting each child to reach their full potential.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all parents and guardians who took the time to participate in the Ofsted inspection process. Your valuable insights and feedback helped to shape the overall assessment of our school.

Helen Campbell, Chair of our Local Governing Body, has also asked me to share the following with you, 'I'm very proud of the outcome. The Doubletrees Community have worked very hard over the last four years to achieve this result. It was very heartwarming to hear the Chief Inspector speak about the pupils and how responsive they are to the staff and to the learning process.'

As a school team, we will not become complacent, we remain dedicated to continuous improvement and will be working diligently to address any recommendations made by Ofsted and wider areas of improvement we identify. We value your ongoing support and encourage you to stay actively involved in your child's education.

Once again, I would like to thank our entire school community for contributing to our school improvement journey. This has been a collaborative journey since the last inspection in October 2019. Together, we will continue to nurture and empower our students to become lifelong learners and responsible and valued members of society.

I am so proud of everyone at Doubletrees School; it is a very special 'family' and I am so privileged, alongside Lou and Jo, to be able to lead it.

Kind regards,

Heidi Hoskin - Headteacher

