



HIGHWORTH WARNEFORD SCHOOL

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September 2022

OFSTED Inspection Report

Dear Parents/Carers

You may recall that we were the subject of an OFSTED inspection just before Easter 2022 and been wondering when the final report was going to be released. I can now confirm that it will be published on Thursday 8th September and will be available on both the school's and their website.

Although the report acknowledges many of the school's strengths, it is very disappointing to tell you that the overall judgement remains as 'Requires Improvement', albeit with a 'Good' sub-judgement for Personal Development.

I can now share that the reason for the delay is that we have been going through a lengthy and confidential complaints procedure – I would have been more than happy to tell you that this was happening but was not allowed to do so. Despite ongoing and significant concerns with the updated report, the school's governors and I have agreed that there is no benefit in continuing to challenge it further and we need to move on.

Prior to the inspection, we were looking forward to the long overdue opportunity to show the significant improvements to the school since the previous report in March 2018. During this time, we have commissioned a number of our own external reviews and surveys to give us a good picture of our progress and show what else needed to be done. With this information, we felt that we were well on track for a 'Good' judgement, so were despairing when this did not happen, especially given the incredible efforts from staff, governors and students along with fantastic support from parents. There are lots of specific details we are unhappy with but our fundamental concerns about the OFSTED inspection include:

1. We believe the report does not give an accurate account of the educational experience of the vast majority of students, particularly when comparing to other schools with different judgements.
2. Many judgements were seemingly made on the basis of very small samples of students or those studying elsewhere in alternative provision.
3. They did not adequately take into account the impact of the pandemic on things like attendance or curriculum structure in English.

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Sharing these concerns repeatedly over the past six months has moved the contents of the report every time but we don't feel there is going to be a significant further shift, so we have decided to move on and prepare for the next inspection, which will probably be in around 18 months' time. We still have confidence in the process but disagree with the outcome on this occasion – robust plans will ensure this does not happen again.

Meanwhile, I understand that some of you will quite rightly have concerns. I would ask you to do two things: read the contents of the report and then consider whether the items raised are actually relevant to your child's experience in the school. I remain confident that the young people who attend Highworth Warneford School get an excellent education that sets them up brilliantly for the next steps in their lives. We have a recent example of this with a strong set of GCSE results and students going on to a wide range of post-16 opportunities.

On my return to school, I will talk to staff and governors about how to give you opportunities to ask any questions about the report, have access to our improvement planning and give whatever reassurances are needed, so that you can have full confidence in the school both now and in the future.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Steele
Headteacher