

Welcome back!

On behalf of all of us at Kings I would like to wish you a very happy new year. As our focus returns to learning, I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you about the outcomes of our recent HMI (OFSTED) monitoring visit that occurred prior to the Christmas break.

We were pleased to welcome back Kathryn Moles (HMI) and her colleague Stuart Edwards (OFSTED Inspector) for their second monitoring visit. Inspectors visited the school for two days and spent time in lessons, met with students, staff and parents, and scrutinised the quality of work being produced. The resulting letter confirms the positive judgement that *“Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures”*. Whilst we have more to do to fully realise the academic excellence we strive for, we remain on course to meet our target of being re-categorised as “good” before the end of the academic year.

Inspectors commented that *“Pupils’ attitudes to learning have improved notably, as a result of teachers’ raised expectations”* and that *“they typically show care and pride in their work, and complete homework regularly”* in order to make *“progress over time”*. The atmosphere in classrooms is *“calm and purposeful”*.

Quite rightly, the report highlights that the progress of students needs to continue to develop in order that it is consistently rapid enough to secure excellent outcomes for them. We recognise this and are confident that the significant improvement shown in academic endeavour will lead to these outcomes. The full report is available on our website in the “About Us” tab under the OFSTED sub-heading.

As you know, our ambitions for our students are significant and we remain steadfast in our desire to provide an excellent education for all.

On a personal level, I was extremely proud of the manner in which students, parents and staff approach the visit. These things can be stressful and seeing how unified, confident and determined we all were was extremely positive.

We will have 2 further visits this year, likely to be in March and June. I will continue to update parents on these visits.

On a different note, we are in the process of completing the building upgrade of the English and History block. This will be finished by the end of January and has been planned so it does not impact upon lessons. We are hoping to shortly be able to announce some fantastic news about redevelopments of the astroturf and look forward to further improvements as we build for the future, including welcoming a new cohort of Year 7 students in September.

My thanks in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr McKenzie