



31st January 2017

Dear parents and carers,

Following our inspection by OFSTED on 6th-7th December 2016, I am writing to inform you that the full report is now available on the school website under the "About us" tab.

The report judges the school as 'Inadequate' and as a result, we will be placed in Special Measures and closely monitored by a nominated HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectorate). The inspection, using the new, very challenging framework came, as you will understand, at a very difficult time for the school as we transition on to a new assessment system.

Whilst both the school and the Guildford Education Partnership (GEP) accept that the school has not yet demonstrated the improvements necessary to be classed as 'Good', we do not accept the judgement and have launched a challenge. It is important to note that the report focuses upon GCSE results and progress from 2015, as the 2016 data had not been validated by the Department for Education at the time of inspection. The significant improvements in progress, which are now well above Government floor standards, were not appropriately considered in our opinion. The report also fails to take into account the responses of parents to the school, which are summarised below:

- 88% of parents reported that their children are happy at school
- 85% of parents believe their children make good progress at school
- 85% of parents believe their child is well looked after at school
- 84% of parents believe the school to be well led and managed
- 76% would recommend the school to another parent

The report does highlight some positives within the school and I include some extracts from the report below:

- "The arrangements for safeguarding are effective" and "leaders have developed robust systems for identifying and acting on child protection concerns"
- "The school's new systems for tracking pupil progress, behaviour and attendance show early promise"
- "The school makes good provision for pupils who have physical disabilities. As a result of the care they receive, they achieve well."
- "There are early signs that effective teaching is leading to more rapid progress"
- "In English, Inspectors saw some pupils approached their work with genuine scholarship"
- "Pupils report that they feel safe in school and they know who they can talk to if they have a problem"
- "Pupils in all year groups benefit from and enjoy the weekly enrichment lessons"
- "Pupils receive effective careers advice and guidance"
- "In lessons, pupils are engaged in their work and behave well when the learning meets their needs and is challenging"
- "Pupils confirm that they like and understand the new rewards system. As a result, the number of behaviour incidents has fallen compared with previous years."

Kings College

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- “Leaders have created a nurturing and supportive (6th Form) environment that caters well for the emotional development of a small cohort of students” where “students say that they enjoy the subjects they are studying. Their attendance and behaviour are good”

Alongside this, however, they highlight a number of key areas for the school to address. Work has already begun on making these crucial improvements and we will be communicating this work and the impact of it on the website under the heading “Our improvement journey” within the “About us” tab. There you will already find some significant indications of improvements already made.

The key areas identified for improvement are:

- The tracking of progress within the school
- The outcomes and progress of students, especially those on free school meals, those with Special Educational Needs and boys
- Behaviour at break and lunchtime
- Low level off-task behaviour within certain classrooms
- Developing a culture of reading within the school

The leadership team within Kings is in no doubt about a need to improve the educational provision we provide, and of the significant role played by parents, carers and supporters of the school. It is our intention to keep you fully informed of our journey and seek your advice and comments through the website and a new Principal’s clinic each alternate Thursday from 8.45-9.30, starting from the 9th February.

I am aware that you are likely to have a number of questions or comments to make following this inspection as we look towards the future. With this in mind, I would like to invite all parents and friends to attend one of the two meetings scheduled for Thursday 2nd February – at 10am in the community room and 6pm in the Learning Resource Centre where my team and I will attempt to answer queries and map the road ahead.

Please be aware that in order that we can respond to some of the actions required in the report, we will be closing at 12pm on Friday 10th February.

We were very disappointed to be placed in “Special Measures” by the Ofsted Team but feel confident that, with the support that we receive from the Guildford Education Partnership (GEP), we will improve rapidly.

I would like to extend my thanks for your support in the first few months of my leadership of Kings. We have a very clear mandate for improvement and are confident that we will be able to deliver the high quality education that all students deserve.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A McKenzie
Principal