



March 2018

## Ofsted Report

Dear parents and carers

As you know, we had a visit from Ofsted in February and the report is now available. You can read it by clicking the link at the end of this letter.

We are delighted with the report. We feel it accurately captures the culture and ethos at the school and, even in this short form of report following a one-day inspection, it manages to recognise many of the tremendous strengths of Lymm High School. The areas for development are fair and, indeed, are the same as those in our own school improvement plans.

First and foremost, we pride ourselves on our honesty and openness, as well as on our determination to do things properly and our refusal to take short cuts. It is therefore very important to us that Ofsted have stated so clearly that our self-evaluation is ***“underpinned by honesty and integrity”***, that governors and leaders ***“have an accurate understanding of the quality of education that the school provides”*** and that self-evaluation is ***“incisive”***. These are the foundations on which all the recent improvements have been built and this approach will help ensure we continue to improve.

Perhaps, however, the line in the report that best sums up the school is this one:

***“(This) is a school that aims to ensure that inclusivity and scholastic ambition intertwine seamlessly.”***

This is precisely how we try to operate – treating every student as an individual, whilst trying to ensure they all reach their absolute full potential. We are really pleased that the inspectors picked this up so strongly.

If you read the report, you will see that the they were extremely impressed by the way we manage to insist upon the highest of expectations academically and behaviourally whilst also maintaining a warm, positive atmosphere where children feel exceptionally well supported and where relationships are so strong. So, for example, they say that ***“this is a school where everybody is accepted for their individuality and uniqueness”*** and where students feel ***“safe and secure”*** but, at the same time, there are ***“extremely high standards of behaviour”*** and ***“teachers have high hopes for pupils and expect the very best from them”***.

During the day itself, the inspectors all commented on what a pleasure it was to spend time with our students and it is also lovely to read this reflected in the report. We could not agree more with them when they say of the students: ***“They are an absolute credit to the school.”***

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It is similarly delightful to see the extent to which the young people themselves appreciate what they have here – that they:

- ***“are extremely proud to attend Lymm High School***
- ***“wear the uniform with pride...”***
- ***“recognise that their teachers and other adults go the extra mile for each of them”***
- ***“say the support they receive from staff is second to none”.***

On academic standards, the report confirms what we have been saying about the rapid improvements in results over past 2-3 years. For example, it says that: ***“On A-level courses, students made some of the strongest rates of progress seen across the whole country”***. It is also clear that students are now making at least ***“consistently good progress almost everywhere in the school”*** and makes a point of highlighting the ***“excellent progress that pupils make in subjects such as mathematics, humanities, physical education and modern foreign languages”***.

Assuming the inspection framework remains the same, we can expect a full Section 5 inspection in four years’ time, which will be a much more detailed process. In the meantime, I will repeat that we are very pleased with this report, which is written under a much more challenging Ofsted framework than the last time they visited the school and which provides a fair summary of many of our strengths and all of our key areas for development.

I’d like to finish by taking the opportunity to thank you, the parents and carers. The lovely comments about the pupils in the school are at least as much a reflection of you as they are of us, and your support in helping drive the significant improvements of the past few years has been invaluable. With your continued backing, I am sure we will keep going from strength to strength.

To read the full Ofsted report, please [click here](#).

Kind regards  
Gwyn Williams