

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear parents and carers

As you know, we had a visit from a team of Ofsted inspectors shortly before Christmas. We have now received the final report and are excited to be able to share it with you.

The format and language of Ofsted reports these days might tend to be rather dry and formulaic, but make no mistake: this is an absolutely excellent report and all of us – students, staff, governors, parents and carers – can be very proud of it. We shan't repeat everything it says because you can read it for yourself, but we are especially pleased that it recognises how wonderful Lymm High School students are. For example, it describes them as *'exceptionally polite and respectful'* and says that they *'behave exceptionally well across school'*. The report also makes clear that students in both the main school and Sixth Form achieve *'exceptionally well'* academically, as well as how appreciative they are of the high quality of pastoral care and extra-curricular opportunities available to them.

Before we go any further, the grading probably needs a little explanation. This was an 'ungraded' inspection, which means it was impossible for our existing grade of 'good' to be changed at this point – frustratingly, that is just how the current Ofsted framework works. However, crucially, you will see that the report also makes reference to the school being judged outstanding if a graded inspection were to take place. What this essentially means is that this team of inspectors felt the quality of education is now outstanding, so another inspection will take place fairly soon and this will be a graded inspection (i.e. one where the grade *can* be changed). Our next inspection will now be within a year or two, as opposed to the four to five years that would apply to other 'good' schools.

This particular outcome is highly unusual and is a great cause for celebration. You may well have read some of the many stories in the press recently about how so many excellent schools are being downgraded under the current, extremely tough, Ofsted framework. It is really very rare at the moment to see schools moving 'up', which makes the conclusions of this Ofsted team even more encouraging.

One other thing that could cause confusion is the way the report talks about 'pupils and students'. This is merely the standard Ofsted format, with 'pupils' referring to those in the main school and 'students' meaning Sixth Formers. As you can see, all the many positives highlighted by inspectors refer to the Sixth Form just as much as the main school.

The requirements of Ofsted have never driven what we do, and never will. Nonetheless, it is lovely to have such an important independent organisation verifying the tremendous progress the school has made in recent years. The report touches upon many different areas of school life and is very positive about all of them, which just underlines the fact that there has been a lot of hard work by a lot of people over a long period of time. We are sure you will understand that we would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge publicly the

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 0RB  
01925 755458 [info@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:info@lymmhigh.org.uk) [www.lymmhigh.org.uk](http://www.lymmhigh.org.uk)



extraordinary commitment and moral purpose of governors and staff right across the school; we certainly couldn't ask for more from them and are delighted that their work has been recognised in this way.

The report doesn't actually contain any areas for improvement at all (again, this is highly unusual). However, rest assured that there is no question of us taking that to mean we are perfect. We remain as ambitious as ever and will continue working as hard as we can. There are plenty of different areas that we still want to improve to make sure that all our young people get the very best possible deal from us.

Thank you all very much for your ongoing support; it has meant a great deal to us to have had such strong and widespread backing from families, not just during the inspection process but also throughout the unique challenges of the past 2–3 years. Success can only come as the result of strong partnership between school and home, and we have certainly seen that in our fabulous community.

Finally, and once again, the bulk of the credit must go to our incredible students. The report refers in a few places to the level of ambition that leaders and staff have for them, but what is remarkable is how consistently students live up to these highest of expectations. It remains an absolute privilege and a joy to work with your children.

[The full Ofsted report can be read here.](#)

Kind regards



Gwyn Williams



Liz Green (Chair of Governors)