

October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, Henlow Church of England Academy was inspected earlier this term on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September; one of the first schools in the country to be inspected according to Ofsted's new framework. I am writing to inform you that the report is now available to view ([http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/inspection\\_reports/394671](http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/inspection_reports/394671)) and will be published on the Ofsted website from 21<sup>st</sup> October. I am delighted to also provide the following summary:

Overall effectiveness	<b>Good</b>
The quality of education	<b>Good</b>
Behaviour and attitudes	<b>Good</b>
Personal development	<b>Good</b>
Leadership and management	<b>Good</b>
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	<b>Good</b>

The inspectors spent time talking to pupils, observing their learning in lessons, looking at their work and reading their on-line survey responses:

*"Pupils feel safe and happy in school"*  
*"pupils are polite, mature and considerate towards each other"*  
*"pupils achieve well"*  
*"Pupils can see how what they learn in school helps prepare them for employment"*

We are proud of the comments included on our staff and teachers:

*"(they) have the knowledge and skills needed to teach a range of subjects"*  
*"feel valued and enjoy working at the school"*  
*"Value the high-quality training and development opportunities provided by leaders"*  
*"The school's curriculum contributes strongly to pupils' wider personal development"*

With regard to leadership:

*"Leaders know which pupils still need help to meet the high expectations of attendance and behaviour. They ensure pupils get this help"*  
*"Leaders have created a good balance between pupils' academic and personal development"*

The report draws attention to our success in addressing areas Ofsted previously highlighted for attention in 2018 and we will act on the advice given here in a similar way. Developing a more consistent approach to communicating all our curriculum plans will be a priority in addition to ensuring that parents of pupils with SEND are always fully informed of the ways in which their needs are being met.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and the contributions you offered via Parent View. Your support continues to be important as we prepare for our future within a changing local context. As you are aware, our application to extend our age range to 9-16 was submitted in July and we await the Regional Schools' Commissioner's decision. Unfortunately our aim to complete this process and begin year 9 in September 2020 has been deferred; I will update you as soon as further information becomes available.

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October Central Bedfordshire Council Executive voted to begin consulting on the plans for the 22 schools in our area to move to a primary/secondary model. The meeting was recorded and you can view this (<https://centralbedfordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>) at approximately 2 minutes 48 seconds into the recording.

The following day the Development Management Committee awarded planning permission to Henlow Academy for the next stage of our expansion. The plans for the refurbishment of the old gym, new science laboratories, SEND rooms and a lift can be viewed via our website. Many parents have specifically asked how they can offer support at this stage in our development and viewing this section of the meeting, at approximately 1 hour 18 minutes into the recording, (<https://centralbedfordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>) will provide an insight into some of the issues surrounding these next steps. The local councillors spent time debating transport, access and highway issues which our whole community needs to consider.

I hope parents will ensure elected representatives are informed of their views regarding the future of Henlow Church of England Academy as we seek to continue to flourish. Our governing body welcome receiving any ideas or updates you may wish to share with us via [info@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@henlowacademy.org.uk).

In this concluding paragraph I would like to, once again, focus on our young people who are thriving both academically and in their wider development. The staff and governors are delighted that our Ofsted report recognises this.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Earp  
Head Teacher