



St Katherine's School



18 April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following last month's inspection, Ofsted has now published its report and St Katherine's has received an overall rating of 'requires improvement'. The report outlines those areas where the school community must focus its efforts to develop further. Significantly, the inspectors recognise that our existing improvement plan identifies these priorities and acknowledges that the actions of school leaders are gathering pace and momentum.

I am heartened that inspectors highlight many positive aspects of our school community. In particular, they recognise that our raised expectations for students' 'behaviour for learning' is having a positive impact on their ability to learn. They also note:

- our programme to support the smooth transition for Year 7 students from our large number of feeder primary schools is carefully and thoughtfully managed;
- some faculties such as humanities achieve above average outcomes;
- low-attaining students achieve well;
- students' personal development and welfare is good;
- we provide a safe, inclusive environment for vulnerable students, including those who are looked after.

We are proud of the school's work to provide an inclusive and safe environment, including our approach to pupils' welfare, well-being and mental and physical health. Both pupils and parents/carers praised this work and inspectors noted incidents of bullying are rare and dealt with promptly and effectively. Thank you to the many parents/carers who completed surveys, and particularly to those who met with the inspectors whilst they were here.

The inspectors agreed with our current focus (as set out in the school's Quality Improvement Plan) on developing the teaching and learning and climate for learning within the classroom to tackle variations in student outcomes.

Inspectors recognised that leaders have secured the full support and commitment of staff to tackle those areas where improvement needs to continue, together with the widely held confidence in the vision for improvement. I have every confidence in the staff team delivering on our improvement agenda.

We have been working on improving outcomes for our most able and disadvantaged students, focusing on how we accelerate their progress across all subjects. Our staff are working with the North Somerset Teaching Alliance and The Beach Teaching School Alliance to support and stretch these groups of learners. Inspectors recognised the improvements being made and we accept there is further work to do to ensure every action we are taking is effective. We will be conducting an external review as recommended in the report.

Inspectors commented on the greater clarity and direction in the school's approach to improving teaching. This year the school has added capacity to both the science and maths teams and has aligned our Teaching and Learning Assistant Headteacher, Miss Cave, to work closely with these leaders. Both faculties will be strengthened further as a new experienced science teacher joins us and we recruit additional leadership capacity in maths. Our professional development for these teams will continue to be shaped around these priorities.

Our attendance remains in line with the national averages but we will further challenge our work in this area to secure higher attendance rates across all year groups and for all students.

Inspectors found the sixth form continues to deliver outcomes in line with national averages, with a number of subjects continuing to achieve above average. They commented on the quality of the relationships throughout the sixth form and commended our new Head of Sixth Form, Mr Colebourne, for his early identification of where further improvements can be made to our provision.

As the report notes, the actions from our Quality Improvement Plan are gathering momentum and we remain focused on the implementation to ensure we further accelerate the progress of all our young people. Our year on year improvement in GCSE, A Level and vocational subjects over the last five years is testament to our students' achievements and the dedication of all our staff. We are very confident about the future and look forward to working with you on our continued journey.

You can view the full report on our school website by clicking the link below. Paper copies of the report are available from school reception or can be posted upon request. [St Katherine's School Ofsted Report 2018](#).

We are holding an event for parents/carers on Wednesday 25 April at 18:30 - 20:00 where I will discuss the report along with members of the leadership team and governors. Please contact Julie Moller at mollerj@skdrive.org to register your intention to attend.

I look forward to seeing you on the 25 April or another school event in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Justin Humphreys
Head of School