



27 March 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that the school was inspected by Ofsted on 4 and 5 March 2015. I am pleased to write to you with a summary of the findings and to inform you of where you can now view a copy of the full eleven page report.

I am delighted to state that the school's sixth form provision has been judged as being 'good' against Ofsted's criteria. As one of the largest sixth form providers in the county the quality of this provision is crucial to promote positive life chances for many of our students and those from neighbouring schools that join us after their GCSE examinations.

The lead inspector writes: *'The sixth form provides a good quality of education. Students enjoy being in the sixth form. They behave maturely and are good role models to the younger students. The improvements are due to the excellent leadership and management of the sixth form.'*

Whilst lower school provision is judged to continue to *'require improvement'* the inspection report confirms that there have been significant improvements since the previous inspection two years ago.

*'The headteacher has made many changes to improve the school, particularly to improve teaching, and the staff support them.'*

We are very pleased that the inspection team recognises these improvements in the quality of teaching across the school. Our planning and school improvement work has been focussed on ensuring that your child(ren) is taught good or better lessons each day by committed and skilful teachers and support staff. The report recognises these changes: *'Teaching is improving rapidly throughout Key Stages 3 and 4 and the pace of students' progress is increasing. The leadership of teaching is effective overall.'*

Improving the rate of student progress and GCSE outcomes for all has also been a key priority for our staff. Whilst we are not yet at a point where we can historically evidence these improvements, the inspectors have agreed with our self-evaluation of standards in school. *'Standards have now risen and are broadly average in terms of the proportion of students achieving five or more A\* to C grades, including English and Maths. Standards and the rate of students' progress are improving throughout the school. The achievement of the most-able students is quickening because in many lessons teachers are really stretching them to develop higher-level skills. Expectations of their effort and learning are also high.'*

We are extremely proud of all of our students. They have a great spirit, enthusiasm, energy and are multi-talented. The inspection team commented on their positive attitudes to learning and their demeanour whilst on site. *'Students typically move round the school sensibly. They are polite, welcoming and mature.'* In addition we are delighted that the report confirms that,

*'The school's work to keep students safe and secure is good. Leaders make sure there is a culture of respect in the school and do not tolerate discrimination of any kind.'* I am sure that parents and carers will be reassured to read this in the report.

We do recognise, as did the inspectors, that there is a minority of students that find school challenging and therefore it is a priority as we move forward to ensure that these students attend school regularly and are well managed by embedding our 'Raising the Bar' behaviour for learning policy that was introduced in September 2014. Our work in this respect was judged as being effective in the report, *'The students who have specific behavioural issues are supported well by the staff. Many are able to modify their words and actions because of the help they are given.'*

You will note from the report that the work of the governing body in holding school leaders to account has been identified as a strength of the school. *'The governing body checks and challenges robustly the rate of improvement in teaching and students' progress, holding the school to account well.'* This is an important judgement as the school moves forward on its journey to become good and outstanding when using Ofsted's inspection criteria.

As Headteacher I can assure you that the staff continue to be fully committed and passionate to deliver the very best educational outcomes and experiences for your children at Tupton Hall School. Whilst not yet judged as 'good' overall using Ofsted's criteria, it is clear from the report that in fact many aspects of the school are already 'good.'

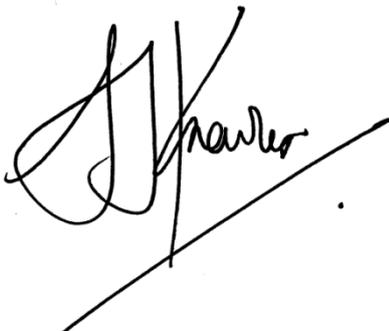
I would like to thank parents for your responses to the Ofsted online questionnaire and the earlier resoundingly positive feedback that was provided at progress review days in February 2015. We look forward to working with you over the next few years to secure further rapid progress on our journey to excellence for all.

A copy of the full inspection report will appear on the Ofsted website on Friday 27 March 2015 and can be found on the school website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

<http://www.tuptonhall.derbyshire.sch.uk>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A J Knowles', written over a horizontal line.

Mr A J Knowles  
Headteacher