



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

Dear Parents,

8th February 2018

Lydiard Park Academy Ofsted Success

We have great pleasure in attaching the new Ofsted report for the Academy. As you will read, the Academy has, once again, been rated as a 'good school' with the key difference from four years ago being that we now have a Sixth Form (which has also been rated as 'good'). Indeed, this was the reason why the Academy had a full inspection with five inspectors over two days, rather than the one day 'light touch' inspection which would otherwise have been the case. The thoroughness of this inspection process thus makes it even more pleasing that all five sections of the report begin with a 'good' rating.

We are especially pleased that inspectors described nearly all aspects of the school in very positive terms. The verbal feedback given to us in the inspectors' final meeting made it clear that we are now very close to an 'outstanding' judgement although, somewhat frustratingly, the grade for each sub-heading reflects that we just fell slightly short each time when judged against the very latest benchmarks for 'outstanding'.

There is one area for improvement that we'd like to explain in greater detail than the report allows. During the inspection, each of the senior leadership team were asked to undertake joint lesson observations with an inspector and to compare judgements afterwards. Every time the inspectors found that the judgements of our senior team were wholly accurate. However, the report states that the Academy is 'over generous in its assessment of the quality of education provided by the school' and we'd like to explain this apparent contradiction. This inspection was one of the first to be undertaken under the latest (January 2018) version of the Ofsted framework and, whilst we had self assessed some aspects of the school's work to be worthy of an outstanding grade ahead of the inspection, it is clear that this particular bar has now been raised even higher! So, in essence, although we are a school that is regularly in the top 20% of schools for pupil progress, we will probably now need to be in the top 5% to be a clear candidate for 'outstanding' under the latest framework. It's a good job we like a challenge!

So, as always, there is more to be done and a very helpful audit of the school's work has now been completed which will help point us on our way.

The report also mentions the multi-academy trust (MAT) we have formed and parents will be reassured to read that inspectors share our view that this transition is being managed well. Inspectors are clear that the leadership team at LPA retains good capacity for continuing to move the school forwards, even though some roles have changed. On this note, we are also attaching some information about The Park Academies Trust and our vision for how it will have an even greater positive impact on education in Swindon over the next few years. Our strong belief is that, by being at the centre of a successful MAT, LPA will gain the experience and opportunities that will allow us to become outstanding.

Yours faithfully,

G Pearson
Operational Principal

C. Zimmerman
Executive Principal



Executive Principal: Mr C Zimmerman
Operational Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principal: Miss S Hesten

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