

15th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted Inspection outcome

It gives me great pleasure to share the report from our recent Ofsted inspection. We are delighted with the report, as I hope you will be.

Our previous inspection was in December 2017 and was what is called a 'short inspection'. This did not result in individual gradings, but did confirm the school as 'Good' and set out the inspection team's key findings along with areas for the school to focus on. As we had expected, last term's inspection was also a 'light touch' visit, which was looking to see if the school was still a 'Good School'.

We are delighted to confirm that the inspection outcome is that "Thomas Keble School continues to be a good school."

After months of nervous anticipation, at the end of a long school year, we received 'the call' on Friday the 30th June and we prepared ourselves to welcome inspectors into the school on the Monday and Tuesday of the following week. As you know, we all feel so proud of our school and we were anxious that our visitors found the 'real' Thomas Keble. I am glad to say that our community rose to the occasion, and it was moving to see everyone pull together so effectively.

We were able to show the inspectors the progress we have made since their last visit and to help them understand our vision for the school. Most importantly, they saw that this is a safe and happy community with opportunities and high expectations for all our learners. Some lines from our report:

*"Leaders have created a **nurturing** environment which supports pupils to learn and **achieve well**."*

*"Pupils' **behaviour is calm and friendly** and **disruption to learning is rare**."*

*"Leaders have designed a **broad and ambitious curriculum**."*

*"Teachers are **knowledgeable** about their subjects and **present new information clearly**"*

*"Parents and pupils **value** the **enrichment** and **extra-curricular** opportunities at the school."*

*"Leaders provide pupils with a **rich set of experiences** during their school life."*

*"...**Rigorous** and **cohesive** programme to support pupils' **wider development**."*

*"Leaders provide **comprehensive careers support** for pupils **from Year 7 to Year 11**."*

*"Pupils are **confident** to share their concerns with staff and know that they will **be taken seriously**."*

*"Leaders **take effective action to tackle bullying**."*

*"Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (**SEND**) are **well supported**"*

*"Pupils feel **happy** and **safe** at school."*

We took an honest and open approach to the inspection process, sharing with the inspection team where we felt we were strong and where we were looking to improve. I am pleased to note that the improvement areas suggested are already key parts of our development plan. Specifically:

1. Although the report acknowledged that “Pupils’ behaviour is calm and friendly and disruption to learning is rare”, we do need to be more consistent in *how* and *when* we pick up any low-level disruption. We have been working on this last year (which the report recognizes) and are confident with the approach we are now using across the school.
2. Sometimes, teaching does not *routinely* check pupils’ understanding or address misconceptions before moving on to new learning. Again, this is a key part of our development plan as we look to continuously improve learning and teaching.

The inspection experience was challenging but ultimately rewarding. I am truly grateful to all the parents who supported us through the process, whether it was by completing the Parent View questionnaire or via the many emails we received wishing us well.

I would also like to thank our staff who do what they do every day to improve outcomes and opportunities for our students. And to the students, who the report says feel happy and safe at this school, thank you for being such wonderful ambassadors for Thomas Keble.

I remain incredibly excited about our future and thank you for your continuing support.

Best wishes

Mr Steve Shaw
Headteacher