

I am pleased to share with you the positive feedback that we received from Ofsted following their inspection on 27 June 2017 and their judgement that we continue to be a good school.

As a 'short inspection' Ofsted spent just one day with us, but during that time inspectors noted the strong sense of community within the Academy, as highlighted by staff, students and governors.

Inspectors also praised our strong educational vision and ongoing work to develop the whole child, with students' personal development prioritised alongside their academic progress.

As a staff team, we have worked extremely hard to embed this ethos so to have Ofsted endorse our whole child approach in this way is extremely pleasing. Clearly we are now in a very strong position to work towards outstanding.

Inspectors said students felt challenged in lessons and enjoy their learning, with students telling them their teachers are friendly and help make learning fun.

This was also reflected in our 2017 Keele survey in which 92% of students agreed that the Academy gives them a good education and 96% saying they are happy in school.

Exemplary safeguarding practices, high performing sixth form, overall attendance above the national average, our extensive extra-curricular offer and comprehensive transition programme for primary pupils were all mentioned in a positive light.

Of course, with any Ofsted inspection there will be things to work on. While we have addressed all priorities from the last inspection, there is still work to be done on improving attendance for disadvantaged and special educational needs students and ensuring those students also make more than expected, or consistently good, progress.

These areas have been identified as both national and regional priorities, with schools across the East Midlands all facing the same challenges, so we know we are not alone as we tackle these issues.

On one final note, let me say a personal thank you to all those who took the time to complete the Parentview survey for Ofsted. We had an overwhelmingly positive response, which inspectors said was clearly reflective of the level of parental support we enjoy and hopefully, the high regard in which many of you hold Carlton le Willows Academy.

Yours sincerely

J C Weaver

Headteacher