

Headteacher: Christopher Anders BA (Hons) MA

30 March 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

This school mailing contains a number of important documents along with the Ofsted report following their inspection earlier in the month. You will also find:

- A letter from Ms Walker
- A letter from Hampshire County Council explaining how fines for non-attendance will work in the future
- A homework timetable
- A sheet about planned developments to the Hermitage Stream
- Park Post - our latest news
- Citizens Advice Bureau – advice about money

Please do take time to read all these documents. Of particular interest to you will be the Ofsted report. The inspection team judged Leadership & Management and Behaviour & Safety to be good. They decided that the Achievement of Students and Quality of Teaching required improvement. Overall this means they concluded that the school requires improvement.

During our inspection the students conducted themselves very well and at the final feedback the lead inspector described students as 'polite and courteous'. When you read the report you will see the complimentary language used to describe our young people. The judgement about achievement was limited by historical factors relating to last year's exam results and the way that these are aggregated in headline figures. You may recall that there was a lot of publicity around turbulent outcomes nationally and results which were unexpected. A number of qualifications taken by students before last summer had little or no value in the final 2014 official aggregated results, although these qualifications still had value for the students. Since last summer school staff and students have been working very hard to ensure that progress is strong and this is recognised in the inspection report.

The focus we have had for a number of years on reading is commended and the targets for improvement on page 3 of the report focus around extended writing, homework and improving spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The inspectors identified that many of the changes to ensure that GCSE results in the new, more difficult, GCSEs reach national levels of attainment are already in place. This includes ensuring that the quality of teaching is sufficiently strong and that our curriculum focuses on scholastic excellence. More time is also given in Years 7 and 8 to teaching of English and mathematics.

Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted exceptionally well. Students' behaviour is described as calm and mature showing an awareness of the needs of others, empathy and understanding.



Serving the Community
as a Specialist Arts,
Science & Maths School



Importantly, the inspectors recognised that as a school equality of opportunity and tackling discrimination are guiding principles.

Please be assured that school staff and governors are focussed on addressing the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted and, as the report indicates, many of these are already a focus for action. A response to one area, regarding homework, is already in place as you will see with the enclosed homework timetable. Teachers will be working hard to make sure that consistency of practice and preparedness for tougher exams ensure outcomes this year and in future continue to allow students to progress in their studies. The week after the Ofsted inspection a report from Hampshire County Council showed that more of last year's Year 11 went onto further study or apprenticeships than ever before.

I hope you agree with me that school is about more than just exams and we continue to pride ourselves on all the additional opportunities we provide for our students. In the last term trips have taken place to many locations including Disneyland Paris and Marwell Activity Centre. Next term sees the first school trip to Africa.

Thank you for your support. I wish you a happy Easter and we look forward to seeing students back at school after the Easter break on Monday, 20 April 2015.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Anders", followed by a period.

Christopher Anders
Headteacher