

13th April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware that on 28th February and 1st March 2018, Ofsted carried out an inspection of our school. We are now able to share with you the outcomes from the visit.

Litherland High School has been given an overall rating of ‘Requires Improvement’, which means that the school is providing an acceptable standard of education, and the full report is attached.

An extraordinary amount of work has been undertaken since the last Ofsted inspection in 2014 and we are pleased to have secured significant improvements from the previous Ofsted judgement.

Litherland High School has made great strides in all areas of school life since our last inspection and we are gathering significant momentum to make further improvements. The infrastructure and ethos that is currently being built in the school community, continues to have the future successes of the students at its heart.

The observation from the inspectors that ‘Pupils are positive about the school, they describe it as a safe place and would recommend it to others’ is heartening as the students are the reason why we are here, so the learning environment is right, now to follow with results.

A picture that Ofsted can see but are unable to fully report upon is one of the true challenges of our school community, namely attendance. Attendance to school is paramount for academic success and both are explicitly linked. If students regularly attend Litherland High School then they will achieve examination success at least in line with their peers nationally. I feel that this statement needs to be aired, as on occasion the simplest statement is lost in the vastness of information that is published. Our school attendance statistic for 2017 was 92%, against a national average of 95%. The negative effect on published results is clear to see.

2016 results	All students (As published in performance tables)	Grade descriptor	Students with 95% or higher attendance	Grade descriptor
Progress 8 score	-0.18	Average national performance	+0.30	Above average national performance
2017 results	All students (As published in performance tables)	Grade descriptor	Students with 95% or higher attendance	Grade descriptor
Progress 8 score	-0.52	Well below average national performance	+0.01	Average national performance

This information simply shows that the students who attend regularly perform in line with or above the national average but when coupled with those students who do not attend on a regular basis, the school statistics that are published on the Department for Education web site which are considered by Ofsted, show that this is not the case. A challenge for us as a school community to address.

An overarching theme of the report is how well the students conducted themselves throughout the visit. The statement: 'Inspectors found the pupils to be confident and courteous', is accurate and we are very proud of our students' academic and non-academic achievements.

The recommendations in the report we fully accept and embrace, and we will work tirelessly to secure further improvements for the benefit of our school community.

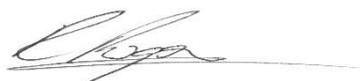
The report does identify many strengths:

- There is an effective culture of safeguarding at the school.
- Pupils have access to an aspirational, broad and balanced curriculum which matches their needs.
- Pupils, parents and staff say that the pupils are safe and looked after well. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is effective.
- Leaders' ambitions for the pupils' education and life opportunities are high and unwavering.
- Leadership of careers education is effective.
- Governors share the vision of an expectation of strong academic progress, it has been a cornerstone of the school's recent improvements.

Finally, please be assured that we are focussed and remain relentless in our mission to provide the best possible academic, moral and spiritual education for our young people.

If you have any questions about the report please contact either myself or the Chair of Governors at the school.

Yours faithfully



Mr R. Rogers
Principal