

Inspectors praise head teacher's "never give up on anyone" attitude as Thurstable gets better

INSPECTORS praised a head teacher's "no excuses" culture, where all pupils, no matter their background, can achieve good results.

The glowing praise given to Miles Bacon, head of Thurstable School Sports College and Sixth Form Centre, was made in the latest Ofsted report.

Overall, the Tiptree school, which has 1,145 pupils, received a "good" rating, which is a step up from its 2014 rating of "requires improvement".

The latest inspection, carried out over two days last month, rated the school "good" in all five areas probed.

Teaching was said to have improved since 2014 and pupils are now making better progress than others nationally.

Last summer 73 per cent of pupils achieved the national benchmark of five A* to C GCSE grades, including English and maths.

Lead inspector Kim Pigram said: "Most parents, pupils and staff believe the support provided by the school both in the personal and academic lives of its pupils is beyond compare. They never give up on anyone."

The report claimed older pupils say behaviour has improved since they joined the school and pupils are "happy, courteous and friendly".

The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare was described as outstanding.

To improve, the school must make sure the brightest pupils



■ Improved outlook - headteacher Miles Bacon

are challenged enough, pupils' self-discipline needs improving and the sixth form students need to make better use of personal study time.

Mr Bacon said: "We have a school that our students, our staff and the great majority of our parents are rightly very proud of, and I am pleased we have an inspection report that properly recognises at least some of the things that make us a great school in which to learn and to work.

"We plan to go on working with parents to support and challenge our students to achieve exceptionally strong exam results whilst safely growing up into the happy and successful adults that they were born to be."