

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

**“This remains a Good School” Ofsted March 2018**

I am writing with some excellent news. As you know, we were inspected by Ofsted on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The inspectors were with us for one day, during which time they visited a number of lessons, listened to students read, observed the school during break and lunchtime, spoke with parents, school leaders, staff and students and analysed responses from parent, student and staff questionnaires.

We have now received confirmation of their findings and I am very pleased to be able to tell you that they have concluded that **Serlby Park Academy remains a “Good” school and that safeguarding at the school is effective**. In fact, the inspectors commented that **‘strong safeguarding practices are embedded throughout the school’**.

Given that the inspection framework has changed considerably and become more demanding since our last inspection in 2013, we are particularly pleased to have retained this Good judgement. There is provision under the framework for inspectors to come back for a second day if they are in any doubt about the security of their judgements. In our case, they did not feel this was necessary and were able to secure all the evidence they needed within the one day.

**Ofsted findings**

Because it was a one-day inspection, we will not receive a full Ofsted report, but we have received a letter from the lead inspector setting out her findings in some detail. This letter is available for you to read on our website and will be published on the Ofsted website on the 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Areas she highlighted as being particular strengths and that we are particularly proud of included:

- The school has strong and determined leadership
- Pupils are polite and considerate
- The new purpose built school building provides an inviting space where pupils learn happily together
- Procedures adopted to address attendance are highly effective
- Pupils attitude to learning and their conduct is good
- Strong safeguarding practices are embedded throughout the school
- Pupils’ progress and attainment are rising across the different phases
- The school has improved attainment in English since the last inspection and pupils make good progress in English by the end of KS4
- Teaching provides pupils with enjoyable learning experiences
- The more able pupils are reaching higher standards in their learning than they did at the time of the last inspection
- Attainment has risen in the sixth form
- Actions leaders have taken to help disadvantaged pupils make faster progress have been successful

The inspection team have left us with three areas they would like us to focus on:

- Ensure the new approaches to reading on the primary phase are embedded
- Ensure we maintain the emphasis on accelerating disadvantaged pupils progress
- Ensure we provide KS4 pupils with high quality, impartial careers advice and guidance

We will be working hard on these areas whilst maintaining and building upon the things that are going well.

#### **Parents as partners**

It is of vital importance that we work closely with you as the parents of our students in taking our school forward and building on this success.

Our aim is to provide more opportunities for you to come into school and to improve our communication with you about what is happening in school to gain a good understanding of the work your son/daughter is doing with us and the opportunities available to them.

It is fantastic to be able to celebrate the Ofsted outcome with you. Thank you for the part you play every day in supporting the school and enabling us to provide a Good education for your son/daughter.

Yours faithfully



Mrs R Thompson  
Principal