

2nd July 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Ofsted Inspection: 11th & 12th June 2019 - "This is a good school"

As you will be aware, Wellsway School was inspected by Ofsted for two days this term and I am delighted to announce that we are a "good" school in all areas.

The inspectors made so many positive comments, it's difficult to highlight them all. However, they made particular mention of:

- Leadership at different levels in the school is strong. Leaders have raised expectations of staff and pupils. Their actions are improving behaviour and the quality of teaching.
- Pupils are making good progress across the curriculum [and are] moving on to the next stage of their education successfully.
- Pupils are respectful towards each other and adults.

Many of you will know that since my appointment in 2016, I have led a number of changes to systems, routines and culture in the school. I'm pleased that the inspectors noted I have *"been determined and purposeful in [my] efforts to drive up the quality of teaching and behaviour"* and have acknowledged that although these might not have *"been popular with everyone, these changes have been made with good reason to raise standards of behaviour, teaching and achievement."* As the report states, we acknowledge *"that there is more work to do to explain why changes have been made and to work more closely with those members of the school community who are dissatisfied"*.

Part of this change has been the appointment of a number of new middle leaders since 2016. The praise for middle leadership (all staff with additional curriculum and pastoral responsibilities) is well deserved; the report praises their effectiveness and how they *"are managing teams with confidence, working collaboratively and relishing the demands being made of them."*

Any school is only as good as its staff and the inspectors agreed with us that teaching, learning and assessment in the school is *"good"*. Amongst other things, Ofsted praised our teachers' *"strong subject knowledge"* and how pupils are taught *"the skills necessary to succeed [and] are routinely challenged"*. As parents, you'll be aware that we revised the Behaviour Policy at the start of this year and the positive impact of this was observed by inspectors: *"Pupils benefit from positive relationships with staff. Classrooms are calm places ... because of the mutual respect that exists between staff and pupils. Pupils behave well; they are attentive to what staff say ... settle to tasks quickly ... move in an orderly way, respect each other's space and treat the environment well."*

The report and grading reflects the improvements made since 2016 and is the result of everyone in the school's hard work and collaboration (day in, day out) to make the school the best it can be for the young people we serve. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust for the support it provides; to staff for their commitment and hard work and to parents and students, who the inspectors felt were "*polite, personable and good humoured.*"

The full Ofsted report has been published onto our school website, you can also view this by clicking the following link: [Ofsted Report, June 2019](#).

Whilst we want to celebrate this success, we intend to build on it to ensure that Wellsway School provides the best all round education possible and look forward to your continued support.

I'd like to end with the following that Andrea Arlidge, CEO of the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust, asked me to include in this letter: "Congratulations to everyone at Wellsway School on a very positive Ofsted report. WMAT is very proud of Wellsway School and appreciates Mr Woodville's strong leadership and the hard work he and his team of staff have put in to achieve this judgement. We also know how determined everyone is to continue to improve and we look forward to seeing the school go from strength to strength."

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Woodville', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Woodville
Principal