

31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

**Ofsted Inspection – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

I am pleased to announce that three inspectors who visited us in January have confirmed that we continue to deserve the rating of good, which we received in February 2014. In particular, the following are highlighted as strengths:

- A positive and friendly atmosphere;
- A very strong senior leadership team with an accurate understanding of what needs to be done;
- Staff have improved their practice in teaching and learning as a result of a clear framework of expectations and improved systems to ensure that students who fall behind catch up;
- Staff are aware of the different needs of students according to their abilities with a greater focus on students with special educational needs and students receive greater challenge in their learning;
- Disadvantaged students are making good progress;
- Safeguarding measures are thorough and effective, with staff working closely with families for the safety and wellbeing of students;
- Students were clear that bullying, when it occurs, is dealt with effectively.

They noted a number of improvements brought about since my arrival in April 2016. At Wellsway, the “very strong” leadership team is aware that there are some areas that we need to improve still further and this is recognised in the letter, but overall the feedback we have received is very positive. You will see from the letter that the lead inspector Kathy Maddocks said, *“Senior leaders have an accurate understanding of what needs to be done to make sure pupils gain even greater successes. You are working well as a team. You provide and receive good training from the Wellsway Academy Trust which has benefited the school.”* They also praised the support given to the school from our family of schools across the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust.

Changes in staffing, expectations and procedures have led to improved teaching and learning. A greater focus on students with special educational needs was also noted.

Ms Maddocks said the school was right to be proud of the good progress being made by pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. She also said the school had raised expectations for the high proportion of students who were most able: *“Too many teachers were not pushing pupils to gain grades that reflected their true potential. You have made teachers more aware of the capability of pupils. Now, pupils receive greater challenge in their learning.”*

Ms Maddocks described Wellsway as having a *“positive and friendly atmosphere”*; *“Inspectors observed and talked with pupils, noting they were relaxed and happy.”* I was delighted that students told the inspectors that the school handled incidents of bullying effectively and that they had many anecdotes and personal experiences to share that support this view.

The new Ofsted framework involves inspection teams visiting schools currently rated as 'Good' and deciding whether this has changed since the last judgement (for Wellsway this was February 2014). The inspection framework has recently changed and the focus for a one day inspection is now very narrow and along a select few key lines of enquiry and this is reflected in the letter we have received from Ofsted. The key lines of enquiry show that the inspectors agreed that we had accurately and precisely identified what we need to develop. We will continue working on these, whilst striving to maintain the very high levels seen in all other areas of the school.

I am pleased that Ofsted agrees with the direction the school is going in as we continue our journey towards outstanding. We welcome this report, which acknowledges the changes we have made to support all students to reach their full potential. We are confident the measures we have put in place will ensure students enjoy their time at Wellsway, make rapid progress and develop into confident, respectful and successful young people.

As parents of children who are at the school, I trust that you are pleased with the report and I thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Looking ahead, I can assure you that the staff here and across the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust will do all that we can to ensure that the students' experience at Wellsway School is even better.

Yours faithfully

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

**Matthew Woodville**  
**Principal**