



25 May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

The Elizabethan Academy is officially a good school

I am delighted to say that we have just had the final report through from our inspection earlier in the week, and inspectors have agreed with our assessment that we are “good” in all areas. They believe that students make “strong progress” from Year 7 through to Year 13.

You will remember that a team of four inspectors spent two days in the school at the beginning of May, looking at provision at both the Hallcroft Road site and at Retford Post 16. Their conclusion? “The school is extremely welcoming and inclusive... Pupils are respectful of themselves and others.” The report quotes one of the many pupils they spoke to during the two-day visit, who said “there is lots of community in this school. We all get on with each other and you can be who you want to be here.”

The report is highly complimentary about all adults working at the Elizabethan and the support they provide for pupils. Teachers’ subject knowledge was described as a “strength” and inspectors praised skilful questioning which is used to probe and develop pupils’ understanding. “Teachers are very encouraging and support pupils to develop their confidence”.

Inspectors found that teaching has been “particularly strong over time in a range of subjects, including English and mathematics.”

The pastoral support and guidance offered to pupils was rated particularly highly. Inspectors found that “the school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is good” and that “the school is calm and orderly.”

There was praise for PSHE (personal, social and health education) as a way of developing pupils and their awareness of the world around them. The report also highlighted the “cohesive programme of careers education” which is “effective in preparing pupils for the next steps of their education, employment or training.”

Inspectors also looked into the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer, including the Duke of Edinburgh’s award and the newly formed cadet force. They described the programme as “extensive”, and found that it helped pupils develop their cultural, artistic and sporting talents. Pupils said they “appreciate and enjoy all the opportunities provided”.

The two-day inspection included a significant period of time spent at Retford Post 16, including visits to lessons and interviews with students. Sixth Form provision was also rated “good”, Inspectors said that “students enjoy being in the Sixth Form”. They praised feedback from staff, which supported them in making “strong progress” and were particularly positive about conduct and attitudes to learning, which they described as “exemplary”.

The report recognises that “the areas that the school lead on as part of the [Post 16] consortium is a strength” and inspectors acknowledged that this will only be enhanced further when A-Levels return to the school in September.

Principal: Mrs Christine Horrocks BSc (Hons) NPQH Chair of Governors: Dr Derek Cheetham

Hallcroft Road, Retford, DN22 7PY T: 01777 713700 F: 01777 713711 E: office@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk

Inspectors may only have spent two days in our school, but the report encapsulates our special atmosphere and the pride that students have in their school very well.

Pupils have referred to the inclusive nature of our school, and that is very important to me personally. They say that bullying is “extremely rare” but are confident that it is dealt with swiftly. I really do believe that our focus on the whole child, including their well-being and character as well as their results, is a genuine strength of our school.

Inspectors spoke to many staff during the two-day visit who say they are “proud to work at the school”. However, nobody can be more proud of the Elizabethan than I am.

Strong Leadership of the school was recognised and “their determined attitude to transform the lives of pupils at the school”. It was further commented that “the principal sets high standards for all staff” which I know staff would concur with. Governors also receive praise in the report. “Governors share the leaders’ ambitions for pupils’ success. They are passionate about the school and are fully committed to supporting continued improvements.”

Every inspection identifies areas for improvement, and we have already started to address these, as they were shared with us during the process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during the process: staff, students, parents and governors... not just for the two-day inspection but for the support I receive every day of the school year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C Horrocks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Horrocks
Principal