

OFSTED PRAISE – JANUARY 2018

Many of you will be aware that the bar has been significantly raised by Ofsted so we are pleased that they have recognised the progress being made by the school. Some of the highlights are below.

What Ofsted said about our School Culture:

- “Students feel safe and very well looked after.”
- “Pastoral care is very strong.”
- “Staff and governors show great concern for the well-being of all the boys.”
- “The school’s work is underpinned by its lively Christian character, supported by positive values, which are carefully applied.”
- “Attendance is above average.”
- “In this positive environment, students achieve well.”

Here is what Ofsted said about the Quality of Leadership:

- “Middle and senior leaders are thoughtful, proactive and effective in their work.”
- “The leadership team has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose and records are detailed and of high quality.”
- “The staff are very thoughtful in the way issues facing the school are addressed.”
- “The reformed governing body is careful to protect and develop the school’s traditions, and support the staff, while increasingly showing that they expect further improvement.”

What they said about Academic Standards:

- “At Key Stage 3, there is convincing evidence that younger students progress well.”
- “Pupils with low attainment from primary school often make particularly strong progress by Year 11.”
- “Disadvantaged pupils, entitled to pupil premium support, also achieve well.”
- “GCSE results are consistently above average.”
- “Students achieve highly at A-level.”

Quality of Teaching and Learning:

- “Our visits to classrooms showed that teachers had secure subject knowledge, clarity of purpose, high expectations and gained good responses from the pupils.”
- “During lessons, pupils concentrate well and listen carefully. They work hard and help each other.”
- “Very recently two members of staff have been appointed to lead on the development of teaching and learning. They have made a good start identifying sensible areas to work on, such as increasing the level of challenge in lessons further.”

Curriculum Provision:

- “The Key Stage 3 curriculum is broad and well balanced.”
- “Key Stage 4 students benefit from a wide range of options.”
- “You are insistent that pupils have good opportunities to study the humanities, sport and games and arts subjects.”
- “The school is developing its curriculum on religious education.”
- “Senior leaders are using research evidence and external expertise to try and make the curriculum better still.”

Safeguarding:

- “The school carries out pre-employment checks rigorously, and the Single Central Record is scrupulously maintained.”
- “Students say it is very easy to get help and they have key points about keeping safe clearly explained to them.”
- “Risks are properly assessed, including for pupils’ activity online.”

Student Behaviour:

- “Pupils’ behaviour is thoughtful and kind.”
- “Around the school students behave safely and are very polite and friendly.”
- “Pupils enjoy taking responsibility.”

Here is what Ofsted said about our Sixth Form:

- “The Sixth Form is very successful and well led.”
- “Staff support students in working hard and students show good levels of independence.”
- “Students show leadership in the school.”

Pupil Feedback:

203 pupils completed the confidential questionnaire.

Students commented on:

- “A happy atmosphere.”
- “How teachers are welcoming and friendly, and that it creates an atmosphere where you belong...”
- “How they like the traditions of the school...”
- “Wanting more lessons in skills such as money management.”
- “More information on which courses and job options might suit them.”

Parents/Carers Feedback:

335 parents/carers completed the confidential questionnaire in the 24hrs provided.

Comments included:

- “A great school that cares about all the boys.”
- *“As a parent I cannot fault the John Fisher School on anything. Any concerns I have had in the past have been very well dealt with and promptly too. The teachers do a VERY good job by engaging with the parents when need be. I will describe this as a very good partnership between the parents and the school which effectively is in the best interest of my son. I find the teaching staff very approachable and highly efficient. The teaching, pastoral care, discipline and everything relating to my son’s welfare is Excellent. I commend the teaching staff highly and would rate them as par excellence.”*

Next Steps for further improvement:

- “Ensure school development planning includes clear, ambitious objectives and time scales for improving further outcomes for pupils.”
- “Ensure outcomes for pupils in English rise to be as strong as those currently reached in Mathematics.”