

Dear Parent/Carer,

Official outcome of Ofsted Inspection Report

Ofsted has today (Tuesday 10th January) published the findings of its inspection of The Robert Smyth Academy, which took place on 29 and 30 November 2022.

As a result of the inspection, Ofsted report that:

"The Robert Smyth Academy continues to be a good school"

"Teachers have good subject knowledge. This helps pupils learn well, including students in the sixth form. Teachers break down new information and present it clearly in ways that pupils understand. They provide pupils with regular opportunities to memorise important learning before moving on".

"Pupils are happy to attend this school, where they are encouraged to be prepared, be kind and work hard. Leaders have high expectations for every pupil, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils live up to these expectations by behaving well and working hard in their lessons"

"Pupils feel safe. They know that they have someone to talk to if they are worried and staff who will support them. They say that staff deal promptly with bullying when pupils report it. Pupils are well cared for. Pastoral support is a strength of the school"

"Pupils behave very well in lessons. During lesson change-over times and at breaktimes the school is calm and orderly. Pupils are polite, listen carefully to teachers and follow instructions. Leaders communicate high behaviour expectations clearly to pupils. Staff uphold these standards. Clear routines are well established in lessons. This allows teachers to focus on teaching, almost always without interruption".

I am pleased to share the full report with you today and you can read this on our website homepage.

Comment from the Principal:

"I am delighted to be able to share this report with staff, students, and parents. This is an excellent report and a reflection of the everyday experience of life in our school. I would like to pay a special tribute to every member of staff because they make The Robert Smyth Academy what it is. We employ truly dedicated, hardworking people and they are the magic ingredient that has created such a strong culture of achievement and inclusion.

I would also like to thank parents and students for their contributions. Ofsted inspectors were delighted to have so many positive conversations with students during their two days here and I felt very proud of the way that our students proactively sought out inspectors to share their view of school life! Inspectors also commented on the strong survey responses from our parents and the contributions of our Local Governing Body. This report is fantastic recognition and something that our community can look upon with real pride"





Comment from the Chair of the Local Governing Body:

"As a board of Governors, we are delighted with the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection, the inspectors were able to see and report that the staff, students and the wider community are all working together to make the everyday experience within the academy an exciting and inspirational one.

Our community should feel proud of the achievements made and congratulations to all at the Academy for their hard work, thank you for the support that parents and our wider community show to the Robert Smyth Academy"

This was the first inspection since the COVID-19 pandemic began and since the previous inspection in 2017 when the school was judged to be 'Good'. This was an ungraded inspection (Section 8) which meant that the inspection grade could not be changed by the inspection team.

If you wish to discuss the contents of this report, then you have the excellent opportunity to do so at our next **Parent Forum meeting** on **Thursday 26th January at 6.00 – 7.00pm** at the school.

Thank you once again for your support. This is a fantastic report and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary **Principal**