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Thursday 20th June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to bring to your attention the publication of our recent Ofsted inspection report. To access the report, please follow:

<https://www.smestow.org/newsletters/1561037927.pdf>.

Also you may wish to access the 'School Inspection – A guide for Parents' document which can be found at <https://www.smestow.org/newsletters/1561038121.pdf>.

Whilst we are disappointed that we have not yet secured Smestow to be a "Good" school, we believe that the report is an honest reflection of the challenges the school has faced over the past few years and recognises the significant improvements that have been achieved this academic year.

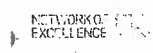
We are very proud that our safeguarding of students has been judged as "very effective" as this is always a priority for us. As you know, we go to great lengths to ensure our students are safe in school and have the knowledge to keep themselves safe at other times.

You will also know that staffing has been of particular difficulty for the school and we have previously had to rely on a number of supply staff to cover lessons, it is very positive therefore that Ofsted have commented that we are now in a position to attract suitable high quality applicants and are making strong appointments. Indeed, for the first time in a number of years we will be fully staffed from September. I would like to thank you for your patience with us in achieving this position, rest assured where needed we have plans in place to ensure no student is at a detriment due to not having a permanent teacher on occasion previously.

We have had an absolutely relentless focus this year on securing our school to ensure we have solid foundations to build on for our journey to becoming outstanding, this was recognised by inspectors who throughout the report are clear that "improvements are beginning to be evident". Indeed, the report specifically notes that parents "recognised recent improvements and changes that are now evident in most aspects of the school's work". Of particular note is the "considerable improvement in behaviour", "improved progress for current students" and that Heads of Department are rapidly improving the quality of teaching and learning.



A member of the Education Central Multi Academy
Trust, University of Wolverhampton





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Following a particularly difficult couple of years in Sixth Form, lessons in Sixth Form are now "well planned" and there is improvement in the quality of Sixth Form teaching also. Our older students were commended for their behaviour and how they take responsibility; we were pleased that inspectors noted that we have put in place procedures to support students who may have fallen behind, although we very much regret that this has had to be the case. A "higher than average proportion" of Smestow Sixth Form students move into positive destinations such as further education, employment or training than is the case nationally.

It is our ambition to continue the momentum we have built this year so that all of our students enjoy a first-class education and, under the leadership of our new Head of School, Mr Till, I am confident that we will rapidly become the school that all of our students and parents are proud of. We will continue our relentless focus on improving all areas at pace, it is good to see that the foundations for this have now been laid and recognised officially by Ofsted.

Yours Sincerely,

pp. 

Mrs. G. Lahiri
Chair of Governors



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