

Wednesday 21st June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: OFSTED Inspection Report

Following our recent inspection on 16th and 17th May, I am delighted to be able to share the OFSTED Inspection report with you, prior to its publication on the OFSTED website within the next week.

As you will see from the report, OFSTED have rated Watling Academy as ‘Outstanding’ in every area and for its overall effectiveness as a school.

First and foremost, I want to say a big thank you to our students, families, and staff for all the hard work and support you have given us over the last three years in helping us to create a school of which we are proud. Rightly, the Inspectors recognised the contribution of our students and families in ensuring our values of ‘Respect, Responsibility and Kindness’ are at the heart of the Watling community.

The most important part of the process for me was that the Inspectors were able to clearly see and feedback on the aspects of the school that make Watling Academy a unique place to learn and work. I have included a few extracts from the report that highlight the vision, values and commitment that reflect our ‘Watling Way’.

- “They [leaders] are determined that background or circumstance should not be a barrier to academic success or personal development. These aspirations are underpinned by the school’s values of ‘respect, responsibility and kindness’. Pupils live and breathe these values every day.”
- “Relationships between pupils and staff are exceptionally positive, reflecting leaders’ aims that no pupil should be anonymous.”
- “They [leaders] expertly thread themes [MK, STEM and Sustainability] through the curriculum, which help pupils to place their learning in a wider context.”
- “Safeguarding is a strength of the school. It has a very high priority and there is a tangible culture of vigilance and care.”
- “Pupils are proud of the school’s inclusive nature, where diversity is cherished.”
- “Teachers inspire pupils to think deeply and achieve highly.”

Respect / Responsibility / Kindness

The OFSTED report is undoubtedly positive. The most important focus for me though, is that we maintain our unwavering commitment to the highest quality of education, care and opportunity for every child at Watling Academy. You have my word that we will never become complacent, will relentlessly focus on improvement, learn from our mistakes and develop as we grow, and that we will continue to have the highest expectations and ambition for every child at Watling.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'I Bacon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr I Bacon
Headteacher