

Tuesday 24 January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

Publication of Ofsted letter following unannounced visit– January 2023

You may be aware that on 7 and 8 December last year, Ofsted carried out an unannounced inspection of Netherwood Academy to review the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements at our school.

Ofsted has published its findings following the visit and we are pleased that their opinion is that we have “**taken effective action to improve behaviour and secure consistently positive attitudes to learning.**” Ofsted do not issue a new grade following an urgent inspection, so the academy retains its current grade.

During the visit, Inspectors found that:

- Since the introduction of our new behaviour policy in September the day-to-day standards of behaviour in school **have significantly improved**, as demonstrated by their conversations with students and staff.
- **Low-level disruption is rare**, and student’s punctuality in arriving at school has significantly improved.
- We have a **strong oversight of safeguarding. Students feel safe at school**, and staff agree with this, and incidents of bullying are dealt with effectively and promptly.
- We have clear processes in place and a culture which is contributing strongly to school improvement.
- We regularly gather students’ views on life at school and we act to make appropriate improvements.
- Our Alternative Provision is **well managed and safe**.
- Astrea Academy Trust has good oversight of our school, providing us with additional scrutiny and support.

Our school is currently judged as ‘Requires Improvement’ by Ofsted and we remain on an improvement journey towards becoming a ‘Good’ school.

We are clear on what we need to do to improve, including - as outlined by this recent Ofsted visit – working to reduce the number of suspensions and detentions, considering the needs of our students with SEND when putting in place ways to improve our school, improving our PSHE curriculum and careers advice and guidance for those students who access our alternative provision, and ensuring there is suitable access to toilets during lunchtime.

A copy of the full letter is attached.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Mitchell', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Mitchell
Principal