

SBR/GENO/AM048



St Margaret's Church of England Academy

"Achievement by faith and work"

Principal: Mr S Brierley MA NPQH

30 October 2018

Dear Parents,

Ofsted Inspection, September 2018

As you will doubtless be aware, we have recently been inspected by Ofsted. I am delighted to be able to provide you with a copy of the letter they have now sent us following their visit. We have also placed a copy on our website, and I am advised the letter will be published on Ofsted's website on Monday 5th November. If you would like access to the letter in any other format, please do not hesitate to let us know.

As you will see from the letter, this inspection has not changed Ofsted's judgement about the overall effectiveness of our school, which is still "good". You will see that there are a number of very encouraging comments in the report, such as:

- *"Teachers, including in the sixth form, develop caring and supportive relationships with pupils and students"*;
- *"Pupils typically demonstrate positive attitudes to learning; they are [...] polite and courteous. They show respect for each other and for adults in the school"*;
- *"Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and governors have created a strong culture of safeguarding in the school"*; and
- *"The curriculum meets the needs of all pupils so that they are prepared for a broad range of post-16 pathways when they leave school"*.

Such comments are testimony to the hard work of very many members of staff here – teachers and support staff alike. I would like to pay public tribute to the whole team at St Margaret's for their tireless work that has been recognised in comments such as those above.



The inspector has also given us some advice as to what we need to do to improve St Margaret's further. For example, she highlights the fact that (pre-16) pupils make variable rates of progress over time. (Despite the size of our Sixth Form, regrettably the letter says much less about the progress made by our post-16 students, which shows less variability). Whilst the letter acknowledges that we have taken action to improve pupils' progress, and that we have acted to address some inconsistencies in the quality of teaching, we would agree that there is always more work to be done in this area. Our 2018/2019 Academy Improvement Plan, reviewed carefully in the light of Ofsted's comments, will therefore set out clearly our ongoing plans for further improvement.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to Ofsted's ParentView survey, the results from which underline the high regard in which many parents hold the school. I am confident that with your continuing support we will have another very positive story to share with the next inspection team who, we were told, will likely visit us within the next two years.

Yours sincerely,

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

Stephen Brierley
Principal