



Dear Parents/Guardians

As you are aware, we were inspected on the 3rd and 4th of November by Ofsted. This inspection followed on from 1 day inspections in July and March of this year. I would like to thank all of you who took the time to complete the Parent Survey provided by Ofsted. I am very proud of the progress that we have made at Alexandra over the past year and your comments, along with students and staff feedback, reflect that pride in our school.

Over the two-day visit by Ofsted, the inspection team met with leaders, staff, students and governors. They visited numerous lessons, viewed student work and spoke to the students in class about their learning. They noted:

*“Pupils at Ark Alexandra Academy increasingly understand that learning is important. Teachers encourage them to believe that they can achieve well.”*

The inspection team rated behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and the sixth form as ‘good’.

The Ofsted inspectors noted that:

*“Pupils behave well in class and respect their teachers. Pupils respect the rules. Their attendance at school is improving.”*

*“The personal development of pupils has been a fundamental part of the school’s work in recent times. They have expanded the range of clubs and activities on offer. The school has recruited well to the Duke of Edinburgh award and also to the Combined Cadet Force. Parents are very appreciative of the range of extra-curricular activities that are on offer..”*

We were really proud of the comments made about our Sixth Form, particularly noting the great destinations that our students go to after Alexandra.

They saw that the Leadership and Management at all levels were good, saying:

*“Staff are appreciative of the rapid improvements leaders have made at the school.”*

In Quality of Education, the team noted the following strengths:

- *Leaders have made significant and rapid improvements to the content of the curriculum.*
- *Subject leads have looked carefully at their plans. This helps pupils to build up their knowledge successfully.*
- *Staff have strong subject knowledge. This expertise informs and supports their delivery of the curriculum.*
- *Pupils trust in their teachers’ competence. They learn in a focused and purposeful way. This clarity of approach is helping pupils to learn more and retain more.*
- *Overall, leaders are making sure the curriculum reflects the raised expectations they have of the pupils.*



- *Leaders have made the development of reading in the school a top priority.*

The team noted all the improvements we have made.

Four out of five areas were rated as good. We are so proud of our Ark Alexandra community and want to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to all parents, students, staff and community who have helped to drive improvements at our school.

However, there are always things we can do to improve, and the inspectors thought that we needed a little more time to embed some of the practice that we had started since April 2020. In particular, we are going to work on:

- Making excellent adaptations for SEND students in class;
- Increasing the number of students taking a language at GCSE;
- Continuing to make an impact on the progress of our readers who find reading challenging.

Therefore, because we scored 'good' in 4 out of the 5 categories, Ofsted rated the implementation of the curriculum as requiring improvement and our overall effectiveness as requiring improvement. However, we are determined and confident that our improvements will continue, and the quality of education will also be judged as good at the next inspection.

As the proud Principal of Ark Alexandra, I can tell you that we will continue with the plans that were continually praised by the inspection team. I have one purpose, and I have promised this to the students and staff: there will be no let-up in my continued hard work for your children. We will ensure we are a truly great school for the community of Hastings.

Yours faithfully

Mr Liam Collins

Principal