

16 May 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

## **RE: Ofsted Inspection Outcome – The Farnley Academy**

As you will be aware, before the Easter break The Farnley Academy was visited by Ofsted to undertake what is known as a 'Section 8 Monitoring Inspection'. Inspections of this nature are conducted where a school has received a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' judgement in its last full 'Section 5' inspection. In the case of The Farnley Academy, whilst many of our judgement areas were 'Good' or 'Outstanding', the overall outcome of our last Ofsted inspection was a 'Requires Improvement' judgement.

I am writing to you today to provide you with a copy of our recent report from Ofsted, as well as to provide you with an overview of the key information included. Before I begin, however, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students, and parents / carers for their support during the inspection. The positivity toward the academy during this time from all members of our community was greatly appreciated.

As you will see for yourself, the report is extremely positive and importantly concludes that ***“Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective actions toward the school becoming a good school”***. This is important. When Ofsted visited The Farnley Academy in October 2019, they left us with very clear areas for improvement. We have acted on all these areas and were able to confidently evidence to the inspection team that the areas raised have been addressed.

Within the report, Inspectors identified that the school had *“placed a strong emphasis on praise since the pandemic”*. This is very true. There are now more ways than ever to be rewarded at The Farnley Academy for making positive choices, and we know that our students respond well to this. Additionally, Inspectors highlighted that despite a significant increase in the number of students attending the academy, the number of children accessing Isolation had reduced significantly and the number requiring Alternative Provision has halved. Importantly also, they recognised that *“several pupils have now successfully reintegrated back into school”* from Alternative Provision, demonstrating the effectiveness of Alternative Provision as a pathway for students who require support beyond what The Farnley Academy is able to offer. These outcomes are a result of hard work from our staff but also support and engagement from home. There is no doubt that young people thrive the most where there is strong support of school from home. Having exceptional parent / carer relationships is important to us as a school. The recent appointment of a team of 'Community Engagement Officers' has been transformational in allowing us to be more proactive in identifying any concerns, and this is recognised within the report. I encourage all parents / carers to contact a member of this team where they have any concerns about any aspect of their child's education.

When concluding on the outcome of a monitoring inspection, Inspectors can only reach two outcomes. Either leaders are taking effective action toward the school becoming a good school, or they are not taking effective action. We are pleased that the team reached the conclusion that they did. Importantly, however, whilst the wording refers to 'taking effective action to become a 'Good' school', the aspiration of the academy's community to reclaim an 'Outstanding' judgement at our next full Inspection was clear throughout the monitoring visit.

The reclaiming of an Ofsted Outstanding judgement is about far more than having a 'badge' for the front of school. It is about a symbol of pride for the whole community. We know that those associated with The Farnley Academy are proud to be so. We also know, however, that it is important to our whole community that the academy is seen for the great work that it does and that when our young people leave school at the

end of year 11, they can refer to the fact that they attended an Outstanding school in future Post-16, University, and employment opportunities.

As you would expect, within the report there are recommendations for areas that we should continue to review. We will do so diligently over the coming months and act where we feel that it will improve the provision on offer for our young people. Importantly, with a successful monitoring review now complete, The Farnley Academy expects to receive a full Section 5 inspection within the next 12-18 months. We will continue to move forward stridently to ensure that we are prepared for this inspection and do everything possible to ensure that the outcome is one which we will all be able to celebrate together.

Thank you for your continued support of our academy.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Stokes  
**Principal**

Enc. Ofsted Report 12/5/22