

Brookfield Community School

A Specialist Sports College

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Acting Headteacher: Mr R Cronin



Our Ref: RMC/acw

9 July 2018

Dear Year 6 and Year 11 Parents and Carers

We are writing to you because your child is registered to start attending Brookfield Community School in September 2018. On 22 and 23 May 2018, the school was inspected by Ofsted and we have just received their inspection report. To our great disappointment, the school has received an 'inadequate' rating.

As professionals, we firmly believe that Brookfield remains an effective school; over recent years, academic outcomes have continued to be some of the strongest in the local area and above national average. 2016/17 student outcomes indicated that Key Stage 4 attainment was above national average; Key Stage 4 progress was average; whole school attendance was above national average; pupils' destinations were above the national average; Key Stage 5 progress was above national average and Key Stage 5 completion rate was above national average. Student feedback also indicates that they feel safe and enjoy attending Brookfield Community School, and parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the provision for their children.

However, the Ofsted inspection does not fully reflect the educational successes cited above. Whilst we accept that educational standards need to improve, we do not entirely recognise the school portrayed in the report. During the visit inspectors focussed a significant amount of their time on challenging our safeguarding and safer recruitment policies, practices and routines, and judged these to be ineffective. As a result of these findings Ofsted have decided that the school's overall rating must be judged to be inadequate (significant weaknesses). While, this is not the same as a 'special measures' finding, we are clearly very disappointed with this outcome.

The full report will be published on the Ofsted website on Friday 13 July. The report is also on the school website: www.brookfield.derbyshire.sch.uk – click on the About Us tab, then click on Ofsted from the drop down menu. If you would like a paper copy please telephone the school.

Whilst deeply disappointed with Ofsted's judgement, we recognise that the school must change and improve. We would like to reassure parents and carers that we have taken immediate action to address the key concerns raised by Ofsted during their inspection regarding safeguarding and safer recruitment. In addition to the safeguarding concerns, we also accept that we need to be clearer about the use of the Pupil Premium and Catch-up funding, and the Governing Body needs to become more rigorous in their interrogation of its impact.

Whilst exam results are clearly crucial to a child's ongoing success, we also believe that providing the very best holistic opportunities is equally important in order for students to develop into outstanding young adults. The numerous extracurricular opportunities that are available to all students attending this school illustrate our whole-child approach to education at Brookfield.



Whilst the Ofsted report does not acknowledge all the positive aspects of our provision, it does highlight some of them including:

- Pupils say they feel safe in school.
- Staff have received up-to-date and relevant training and understand their responsibilities to safeguard pupils.
- The majority of pupils are proud to be members of the school. They speak positively about their school experiences.
- [Pupils] leave the school with attainment that is above the national average.
- In 2017, rates of progress improved compared to 2016.
- Current pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, are making faster progress in most subjects, than in the past.
- The Designated Safeguarding Leader, with particular responsibility for pastoral care, is extremely knowledgeable about individual pupils and works tirelessly to meet their needs and to promote their well-being. She has implemented an effective system of record keeping which details how pupils are monitored and the actions taken to support them.
- Teaching is good in the sixth form. Students enjoy their lessons, they are effectively challenged and make good progress. Students say that their teachers 'go above and beyond' to help them.

We would encourage you to read the full report as this lists many other achievements beyond these.

We also would like to assure you that the staff, senior leaders and governors are committed to doing their very best for your children when they come to the school. They will work tirelessly to meet the needs of all students, regardless of ability or background. Staff's attention, care and concern for all of our students is unquestionable. At this time of change we ask for your continued support and commitment to work with the school.

We fully understand that the written report may cause concern. To this end, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a Parent/Carer Information Evening on **Monday 16 July 2018 at 6pm** where there will be a short presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions of the Senior Leadership Team and Governors. If you would like to attend please email the school office at enquiries@brookfield.derbyshire.sch.uk confirming how many seats you would like to reserve.

Alternatively, please telephone the school reception on 01246 568115.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Cronin
Acting Headteacher



Dr J Thacker
Chair of Governors