

Friday 17 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the publication of the Ofsted report which you will have received from Hellesdon High School today.

I am sure, having read the report, you will find it difficult to understand how the school has been judged as requiring improvement when it was judged as Good in four out of the five inspection areas.

I too find it difficult to understand. The school has much to be proud of and celebrate following the inspection and it is disappointing that the attitudes of a minority of pupils has led to one area requiring improvement, impacting the overall judgement of the school. However, I also acknowledge that the school must take action to ensure all pupils demonstrate good behaviours and attitudes at all times.

I am reassured that the new leadership team, which has been in place since September, were already implementing changes to improve behaviour and attitudes across the school. I believe, had the leadership team been given more time, inspectors will have seen the positive impact their plans are having.

I do hope you can focus on the positive feedback from the inspection team and I would like to thank the whole school community for the praise it received during the Ofsted inspection. This includes that pupils' benefit from an ambitious curriculum, they are well supported, feel safe, and the school takes concerns seriously.

The Sixth Form is also singled out as Good with inspectors recognising the high expectations it has for students and the positive experiences it offers.

I would like to reassure you that whilst the Wensum Trust continues to support the Hellesdon High School community, it also continues to challenge the leadership team to ensure they are implementing their plans and making the required changes recommended by inspectors.

I am confident that if the whole school community works together, it can make positive changes and build on the many strengths highlighted by Ofsted.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'D. Thrower'.

Daniel Thrower
CEO, Wensum Trust