



Headteacher's summary / OFSTED Inspection July 2018

The team were made aware that the school had changed considerably since the last inspection in 2014, and this was acknowledged in their findings:

'Since the previous inspection, there have been significant changes to the school.

A change in the school's culture, high staff turnover and difficulties in recruiting teachers in some subjects contributed to a decline in behaviour and the quality of teaching.

You have successfully stemmed this decline, and some improvement is now evident, especially in the behaviour of pupils.'

The Ofsted inspectors were very complimentary of the leadership of the school during the last two years and the school's journey;

'You and your senior leaders have managed this turbulent time and challenging transition arrangements with tenacity and integrity, resulting in what is now one mixed-sex school. You have taken the decision to rename your school 'West Coventry Academy' and introduce a new uniform, which pupils helped design. As a result, all pupils, boys and girls, now feel part of and integrated into the school.'

'Although challenges remain, you are aware of them and tackle them methodically and with a clear focus on raising pupils' achievement.'

They were impressed with our pastoral care and our dedicated team of teachers and support staff;

'Pastoral care remains a strength of the school. Staff know pupils well, and pupils trust their teachers. Relationships are respectful throughout the school. You have a team of committed teachers and other adults who care deeply about and are proud to belong to the school.'

The inspectors spoke to many of our pupils and commented on their behaviour;

'Pupils generally have positive attitudes to learning. Most behave well and are keen to be successful. They are polite, courteous and show respect to each other, to adults and for the school's buildings and facilities.'

During the inspection lessons and classrooms were visited to observe learning in progress;

'Where teaching is effective, it is because learning activities are matched well to pupils' needs and abilities. Highly effective questioning allows pupils to think deeply about challenging concepts. As a result, pupils work hard and produce work of high quality.'

They reported that our safeguarding systems were highly effective and all staff were confident in following them. After speaking to pupils and reading parent and staff comments, Ofsted reported West Coventry Academy is a school where pupils felt safe;

'There is a strong safeguarding culture across the school.'



The sixth form was particularly praised,

'Strengths in the sixth form have been maintained.'

'Students feel valued and well cared for and are effectively supported. They are highly complementary about the quality of teaching, pastoral and mental well-being support afforded to them by all staff. One student commented that the 'sixth form feels like a family'. They are confident, eloquent and extremely proud of their school. The quality of teaching in the sixth form is underpinned by high expectations and aspirations, supported by high-quality careers advice and guidance. Consequently, outcomes in the sixth form are strong.'

The team met with our Governors and found them to be both supportive and challenging;

'Governors are a dedicated group of professionals who care deeply about the school. ... They have a vision for the school, which includes West Coventry Academy being the school of choice for all parents in the community.'

Next steps for the school following the inspection:

- School improvement strategies need to be embedded fully and evaluated regularly for their impact on pupils' outcomes with a particular focus on English and Maths
- Teachers need to set work that takes account of pupils' needs and what pupils already know and can do, especially the most able and disadvantaged pupils
- Strong practices that exist within the school need to be shared among staff to ensure pupils make rapid progress

I am extremely proud with the result of the Ofsted inspection and wish to thank staff, students, Governors and parents for their support and commitment to West Coventry Academy.

We look forward to our continued success as a 'good' school and continue to strive to provide the best possible education for our young people.

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