



Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

On 18th March we had an additional monitoring inspection by Ofsted. I have now received the final version of the report from this visit, please see attached.

Unlike 'normal' inspections, there is no grading for this report – just two outcomes:

- Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.
- Safeguarding is effective.

I am extremely pleased that the comments from the report clearly reflect the journey we have been on as a school. Summarising some of the key finds:

- Pupils are happy to be back at school. They are complimentary about the online learning they received during remote education. Parents agree. Many described the remote education offered as 'first-rate' and 'excellent'. You have been resolute in providing a broad education at this time and have been flexible in your approach. You and your leaders listened to parents and acted on their feedback about what worked well for pupils' learning remotely.
- Prior to the pandemic, leaders reviewed the curriculum to ensure subject content was suitably ordered so that pupils' knowledge builds over time. Some subject content has been adjusted to be delivered online. During the third national lockdown, teachers developed new ways of checking pupils' learning so that pupils can 'hit the ground running' now they are back at school.
- You are determined that pupils read widely and often. Pupils have many opportunities to read during the school day. Teachers quickly identify those pupils who are at the early stages of reading and need extra support. Due to extensive training, teachers in a range of subjects are confident in their knowledge of teaching reading. You have ensured that pupils can access an online library to help maintain their reading habits and fluency in reading.
- Pupils in Year 11 and students in Year 13 are well supported. Leaders have been clear about how grades will be awarded at a time when public examinations are not taking place as normal. The recent 'Rev it up' week gave Year 11 pupils the message that the future is not cancelled.
- Leaders check regularly on the welfare and well-being of pupils. This helps to inform and plan appropriate support. During the early part of the spring term, teachers

Hylands School

Chelmsford Rd, Writtle,
Chelmsford CM1 3ET, UK
E: hylandsoffice@hylands-tkat.org
T: 01245 266766

www.hylands-tkat.org

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regularly contacted vulnerable pupils who remained at home. Staff gave extra support where needed. Older pupils attending school continue to benefit from well-being support such as mindfulness sessions and meditation.

- Safeguarding is effective. Staff know how to keep pupils safe. All staff receive regular training and are up to date with their knowledge of the risks young people face. They know how and when to report concerns so that safeguarding leaders can respond quickly to any issues that arise. Leaders work well with external agencies, such as social services, to make sure pupils receive the support they need. Leaders keep detailed and thorough records of concerns and actions taken.
- Pupils say they feel safe and trust staff to deal with any problems, including bullying. Pupils take part in a range of anti-bullying programmes, including being anti-bullying ambassadors and a regular lesson based on personal and social development. Pupils know how to be safe online and they understand the importance of reporting any concerns they have.

Further action we need to take is to make sure parents are well informed about their children's learning and the support their children need and receive. We have already started looking at how we can provide more information for parents and we will be asking for feedback later this term.

Thank you all for your continued support of Hylands and the work we are doing to improve the educational experiences of all our students.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Parry
Headteacher

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