

Churchmead School - Statement

Churchmead has made rapid and secure progress, successfully lifting the school out of special measures earlier than expected.

This is the view of Mr Alan Taylor-Bennett OFSTED Lead Inspector and his team who visited Churchmead in December 2013. During the two day inspection, the team observed many different lessons, spoke to a variety of different student groups and examined the achievements and results of the school. The report details the significant improvements the school has made highlighting the following points:

- The new Headteacher is providing strong and effective leadership.
- His senior team know and understand the school's development needs very well and demonstrate the capacity to address them successfully. Achievement, the quality of teaching and the behaviour of students are all improving as a result.
- Students' progress in English and mathematics is secure and standards are rising.
- Students' literacy skills support better learning.
- Students behave well around the school. They demonstrate a new-found sense of pride in their school and in their achievements.
- Students have a good moral compass. This is due to the good values that the school continually reinforces.

In their report OFSTED speak extremely positively about the significant improvements to achievement, the quality of teaching, the behaviour and safety of students and the leadership and governance of the school. The inspection team also praised the progress made in English and Mathematics and highlighted how well this compared to national standards.

The inspection team were impressed with the behaviour of the students and the students were keen to share the major improvements that had taken place. The report compliments the calm and happy ethos of the school. Students from different backgrounds get along very well. In lessons, students are very willing to take part, and listen well to explanations and instructions. Group work was seen as very successful because students are keen to work together. Students work hard and value making good progress.

OFSTED spoke highly of leaders throughout the school, who are all engaged in the drive to raise standards. Governors were praised for being strong and robust holding the Headteacher to account for students' performance.

Since the inspection the school has gone from strength to strength with good recruitment, a specific focus on continued school improvement and developing ambitious plans for Science education. Many visitors have repeatedly commented on the calm and purposeful nature of the school and the transformation that has taken place. The confidence in the school is being re-established with our local community and our stakeholders.

Churchmead has a bright and vibrant future with the potential of becoming an outstanding Church of England Secondary school. I would be delighted to show people around the school so that they can see the significant changes that have taken place.

Chris Tomes
Headteacher
Churchmead