



Dear parents and carers,

Following our last full inspection in January, we had a visit from Ofsted last month to monitor our progress and to check on the improvements that we are making. I am very pleased to share the positive report they have sent to us, and I hope you will have time to read it in full.

It is a matter of pride for all of us here that our scholars are so courteous and respectful. I was incredibly moved at our recent Remembrance Day commemoration to see our cadets in their uniforms and the whole school recognise the sacrifice of so many servicemen and women who have given their lives for our freedom. This shows how far we have come and why I am so excited about what the future holds for this community.

Overall, the report reflects the fact that we are “improving quickly” and that staff members and scholars “appreciate the improvements made to pupils’ behaviour”. This is across all aspects of school.

The inspection team recognise that we have prioritised improving the quality of education, including putting in place new ways of delivering the curriculum. The report recognises the impact of the training that has been rolled out to our teachers and how this links directly to the key areas of improvement, including on behaviour and teaching practice. These are recognised as being effective in creating consistency.

Behaviour has improved significantly as a result, with inspectors noting that “leaders have raised everyone’s expectations of pupils’ conduct”. Ofsted say that our approach to behaviour is having a “positive impact”, with disruption in lessons minimised and suspensions and visits to our Reset Base having “reduced dramatically” compared to this time last year. Pupils and staff also spoke positively to the inspection team about their own experience of behaviour in school.

Attendance is recognised as having improved since the last inspection, but we recognise this is an area we need to continue to focus on. We have a robust plan that takes all necessary steps to ensure that scholars are in school and on time every day. This is something that will support the wellbeing of scholars and support them to succeed in their studies.

The inspection team concludes that we are taking “effective action” to improve the school and recognises that our trust – Astrea – is monitoring our work closely and has a strong understanding of the progress we are making and the areas that need to improve further. The report confirms that we have a clear improvement plan in place and that we are accessing extra support from Astrea where we need it.

All of this makes for encouraging reading, but we are not complacent about the work that remains. It’s clear that Woodfields is already a different school to the one I joined in March this year. By working in partnership with you our families, we have been able to make some significant and positive changes in a relatively short period of time.

ASTREA ACADEMY WOODFIELDS
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Principal: Mr David Scales



I am enclosing a summary document that sets out the progress we have made to date, as well as pointing up the areas where we need to do more. I hope this gives you a sense of where we have come from, but also where we are going next too.

We will be hosting parents' sessions over the coming weeks to talk through the report and to give you an opportunity to ask any questions. These will be on Tuesday 28th November from 5:30-6:30pm and a coffee morning from 9:30 until 10:30am on Thursday 30th November, both in the main hall.

I very much hope you will be able to join us for one of the sessions that I have mentioned. In the meantime, though, if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Scales', is written over a faint, light-colored watermark of the school's logo.

David Scales
Principal





AAW: Our story of improvement so far...

AREA	THEN	NOW	WHAT'S NEXT
Curriculum	Leaders were beginning to improve the curriculum, however it was inconsistent. Some subjects were well planned, but others were disorganised. Scholars sometimes had knowledge gaps and found the subjects hard to understand.	We have strong plans for most subjects that are ambitious and logically organised. Most subjects use booklets so that scholars know what they are learning and where their gaps in knowledge are.	In all classroom-based subjects, scholars will work from logically ordered booklets that support academic reading and writing. Scholars will better understand what they are studying and why because teachers will have had better training.
Teaching	Scholars had a variable experience depending on which teacher they had and which subject they were in. Some work was not well matched to their needs. Some staff members did not follow the routines that we were asking them to follow.	Teachers use the school routines consistently and regularly check whether scholars have understood what they have been taught. Some teachers are not yet using this information to inform their actions.	Teachers will check for understanding frequently. When scholars don't understand something, the teacher will help them until they do understand before moving on. The homework that scholars receive will be checked and reviewed with regular quizzes and full assessments every half a year.
Behaviour	The behaviour of scholars was poor. This made some scholars feel unsafe and disrupted their learning. Too many scholars were removed from lesson and lost time due to their poor behaviour.	Significant improvements have been made to the behaviour of scholars with a dramatic reduction in the numbers of scholars going to the Reset Base or being suspended. There is a respectful school culture.	Continually raising standards and expectations so that scholars don't opt out of hard work. More and better support for those who are displaying poor behaviour. Improved systems and processes.
PSHE	Some scholars did not understand or respect the differences between them. This led to negative interactions and instances of bullying.	Scholars increasingly know the importance of being tolerant of people from different backgrounds. There are now very few instances of discrimination and there is a more respectful school culture.	Scholars will learn even more about protected characteristics and how to be courteous and respectful through the curriculum and Morning Meetings.
Attendance	Scholars did not attend school often enough. Sufficient actions were not taken to increase attendance	Attendance has increased slightly from last year with significant progress being made with some scholars and families.	There will be more leadership support to strengthen the team. Families can expect more support but also challenge to ensure that scholars attend school. Rewards will be more frequent and linked to improved attendance.

