



10th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

You may already be aware that we had an Ofsted inspection at Armthorpe Academy a few weeks ago. I am writing to let you know that we have now received the report from Ofsted.

I am very proud to say that the inspectors praised our students very highly, saying they have respect for others, embrace all the enrichment opportunities on offer and meet the high expectations the school has for their behaviour.

The inspectors also said that the new leaders at the school, the trust and those responsible for governance have high ambitions and are making the school a better place for pupils to attend. They were impressed by the many changes the school has made and said that these are starting to have a positive impact.

Whilst we were pleased with the positive feedback, the overall grading of the school was that the school “Requires Improvement”. This should come as no surprise as I hope I’ve been clear since September that this is where we considered to school to be at currently.

What I am extremely pleased about is that the report repeatedly mentions improvements that have been made since September and the positive impact they are having to your child’s education.

I want to reassure you that we are continuing to take action to make Armthorpe a good school again and to directly address the feedback the inspectors gave us. I know the changes we have already introduced are having a positive impact on your child’s everyday experience at Armthorpe Academy. As I have said before, change doesn’t happen overnight and takes time to become part of the school’s culture, but I am delighted that Ofsted recognised the changes that are already taking place.

I am very confident that you will continue to see improvements at the school, and I would like to thank you for all the support you give us and me personally.

There are 3 main areas which we need to focus on now:

1. *Ensuring all our students make great progress in lessons and this translates to good GCSE outcomes.*
2. *Ensuring students attend school more, our school attendance is still below National and Doncaster average, this must improve, if children are not in school, they are missing vital lessons and learning opportunities.*
3. *Continue to push the high standards we have set around behaviour that allows every student their right to learn and every adult their right to teach.*

Our priority is to be fully accountable to you, our parent/carers, families and community. I want to reassure you that myself, my senior leadership team, the staff and the trust, Consilium Academies, will be working tirelessly to make Armthorpe Academy the school we know it can be, and one that the whole community can be proud of.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that on Friday the 21st of June we are having our final Inset day of the year. This day will be focused solely on driving school improvement, specifically looking at how we achieve the three outcomes listed above.

I would also like to inform you that our final day of the year is Friday the 19th of July, we will be finishing at 12.15pm on this day, with the canteen staying open until 12.45pm. In addition, it will be a non-uniform day where we will be asking students to donate £1.

I am extremely proud to let you know that we have decided at the request of one of our Year 10 students to use the monies raised on this non-uniform day to donate to Firefly Cancer Awareness and Support. Firefly vehicles provide free transport to local cancer patients and their families in the borough of Doncaster to regional treatment hospitals, using

their fantastic team of volunteer drivers. Cancer affects all families and we couldn't think of a better cause to raise money for, especially given their contribution to our wonderful community.

I will be in touch again soon with further specific updates about our response to this report but didn't want to overburden you this time around.

On a final note, on behalf of the trust could I please ask you take 5 minutes to complete the trust wide survey. The survey link is below and there is a prize available for completing this.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours sincerely



David Bisley
Headteacher

