



# BECCLES FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life"

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16 June 2014

Dear Parent / Carer

## **Re: Ofsted Inspection Report**

As parents / carers will be aware, Beccles Free School was inspected by Ofsted on the 21 and 22 May 2014. The report arising from this inspection has been through a variety of checking and quality assurance processes over the last few weeks, and has now been made available publicly.

We attach the first ever full Ofsted inspection report for the school for you to read, and we summarise the highlights and areas for development in this covering letter.

Ofsted inspects schools in four main categories: 'achievement of pupils', 'quality of teaching', 'behaviour and safety' and the 'quality of leadership and management'. Overall the school has been judged to be good, with an outstanding judgement given in the 'behaviour and safety' category. The report states:

- *"The school is successfully providing an academic atmosphere where excellence is prized."*
- *"The leaders and trustees have succeeded in setting up a school which, whilst still small, has a clear and effective focus on high aspirations and is making progress."*
- *"The behaviour of students and their attitudes to learning are exemplary; students are mature and courteous, and inspectors saw no low level disruptive behaviour in any lesson."*
- *"Teaching in the school has played a key role in students' success in accelerating their progress over time. Students report that teaching is good and engages their interest."*
- *"Teachers and leaders have high expectations of the students and this is reflected in the classroom. They clearly act as role models for their students, who respond to them very positively; relationships are strong and respectful in both directions."*
- *"The school's senior leaders, including the energetic and enthusiastic headteacher, have succeeded in creating a new school with a culture of high expectations"*

It is important that we convey that Ofsted is not the end of our journey towards achieving our aim to improve aspirations, standards and achievement for all the young people in our care, but an important check along the way. We realise we still have much to do to ensure we build on what this excellent inspection report has told us we have already achieved. Going forward, the Ofsted team have highlighted that we need to concentrate on the following areas:

- *Convert good teaching into outstanding and improve achievement by:*
  - *ensuring that students are always clear what to do, why they are doing it and how they can evaluate each other's success*



- *all groups of students learn at a rapid pace in all lessons through tasks which stretches all of them to persevere and do their very best*
- *raise expectations of what students should contribute to lessons and deepen their learning by challenging and responding to each other*
- *providing the support of skilled additional adults in classes where there is a wide range of student abilities*
- *more effectively analysing the impact of initiatives such as reading schemes and pupil premium spending so that they can be used to best effect.*

We are incredibly proud of our school, students and of this inspection report. The report stands testament to everyone who has worked so hard to set up the school and inspire our students every day to learn, progress and achieve. We would like to thank our team of dedicated teaching, support staff and volunteers who work tirelessly with a relentless drive for our students every day. A particular thanks to parents / carers who support the work of the school and to those who completed a Parent View questionnaire to provide such positive feedback on the school to the inspection team. It is wonderful to see such a high number of those parents / carers who completed a questionnaire would recommend the school to another parent.

As is pointed out in the 'behaviour and safety' section of the attached report, our students behave in an exemplary manner and we wanted to take this opportunity to state how proud we are of our students. Their attitude to learning, their relationships with each other and with teaching staff, embody in practice exactly how we set up the school. This report shows that our students are achieving their potential through a culture of high academic, personal and social expectations and high aspirations every single day. Beccles Free School will continue to provide the highest standard of education in order to provide our students with a 'foundation for life'.

Yours faithfully,



Dr R Cawley	<b>Principal</b>
Mr J Lucas	<b>Headteacher</b>
Mr B Mayne	<b>Chair of Governors</b>