



Bristol Free School
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Acting Headteacher: B.Sillince

16 April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last Friday we received the report following our Ofsted inspection on 15 and 16 March 2018. A full copy of the report is on our school website. During the inspection an exceptionally high proportion of parents used "Parent View" to provide Ofsted with their assessment of BFS. Collectively, you presented an extremely positive and supportive view of our school. We thank you for this support and encouragement.

The outcome of the inspection is that Ofsted has judged our school to Require Improvement in a number of key areas; but confirmed the school and Trust's priorities and our current approach to improving these areas. Of course, Ofsted had to take the Progress 8 score for 2016 and 2017 into account. These opening year groups were different from all subsequent years (which have been oversubscribed and full from the beginning of Year 7) and had a large proportion of late joiners. So despite some exceptional GCSE results in 2016 and 2017, particularly for our most able and those with us from Year 7 onwards, year-group wide results were below average. The report also notes our very substantial strengths as a school. This includes the Sixth Form (which was judged Good) Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare (also judged Good) and the good progress of students with Special Educational Needs. In addition the report singles out evidence of good teaching, particularly of the most able, as a strength. This strength was borne out by teaching observation during the inspection, the last two year's GCSE results; and standards in the Sixth Form.

We acknowledge, however, Ofsted's view that too much variation still exists with respect to less able students. Our school is continually striving to ensure that the quality of teaching; the impact of marking and feedback; and expectations and challenge are universally good or better for all students, regardless of ability. We are encouraged, however, that Ofsted judged our management approach to these issues to be a strength. Our own tracking of the progress of current students indicates good progress across all year groups and ability ranges. We feel confident that 2018's GCSE and A Levels will again deliver outstanding results for our most able pupils; and much improved attainment for our less able pupils.

Our headteacher designate, Mrs King, is working closely with Mr Sillince, the school and Trust to ensure a seamless transition to her headship; but also an uninterrupted focus on those students who are currently in the final weeks of preparation for public examinations. Her words in this week's Newsletter mirror our response to this inspection report "I want us to celebrate the school's many gifts and strengths; then to consolidate the school and Trust's reputation for subject expertise and for good and outstanding teaching, for every child, every day."

We will keep you fully involved in this next stage of the school's development. However should you wish to discuss this report or any issue related to your own child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes

Ben Sillince
Acting Headteacher

Karen Lynch
CEO, RET

Karen Foster
Chair of Governors

CC: Susan King, Headteacher designate

