

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

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Ref: LBO/TOV

6th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you that following the OFSTED inspection that was undertaken at the Academy on 10-11 March 2020, the final report is now available and can be found on our website.

There were many positive areas that were recognised by the inspectors; we are, however, very disappointed that under the new OFSTED inspection framework, inspectors graded the overall effectiveness as “requires improvement”.

I, and the Governing body, do not feel this truly reflects the ambition or culture of the Academy and I know that many parents will strongly share this view (please see the attached copy of the results of the parent survey that was completed in January 2020).

The inspection team recognised and commented upon many important strengths in the daily feedback meetings with me and the Academy’s leadership team. For example inspectors commented that in English, staff are “passionate and committed and work well to deliver the curriculum plan which is sequential and logical”. They recognised that “students could talk positively about what they had covered in previous lessons and how this was built upon”. Unfortunately, in some areas, the inspectors felt that, because students are not taught a whole novel in Year 7, the English curriculum “lacks ambition”.

In addition, inspectors recognised, and stated in the published report, that “Pupils are tolerant and get along well with each other. Newcomers to the school feel welcomed and soon settle. Pupils say they feel safe. They told us that while bullying does not happen very often, there is always someone they can turn to for help should they need it. Pupils behave well in school. They can usually learn without disruption.”

We are pleased that inspectors did recognise in the report that maths, Safeguarding, the wealth of extra-curricular activities, the curriculum plans of many subjects, the PSHE programme and the support students receive in making future plans are strengths at the Academy.

We do of course accept that there are areas of challenge for the Academy highlighted in the inspection report which are in need of further improvement and I will work with my staff and parents to strive for



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excellence. In particular, the attendance of identified groups of students, and consequently their outcomes, must improve and we will be working with parents and carers to achieve this.

I am immensely proud of my staff and students and of the Academy's improvement journey. This journey has been endorsed by the Teaching Schools Council and the Regional Schools Commissioner who have been regular visitors to the Academy over the past two years and whose evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive. Additionally we continue to work with high performing schools and trusts, nationwide, to provide high quality education for all of our students. This is the reason that parents choose to send their children to Plympton Academy and the comments we receive from parents overwhelmingly suggests that their experiences, as well as the experiences of their children, gives them the confidence that they made the right choice.

I would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support and positivity regarding the Academy. Our reputation continues to grow in strength, which is why parents from across the city (current Year 7 represent over forty different primary schools) select us as their first choice school. The inspection is a snapshot over a two-day period and I am certain that your experiences and perspective, and that of your children, are far more reflective of the many strengths and opportunities that we strive to provide.

If you feel you would like to discuss the report further please contact my PA, Tracey Overton, using the email address overtont@plympton.academy

I thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Ms L Boorman
Principal