

23 June 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I am absolutely delighted to be sharing the news that following our most recent Ofsted inspection in May, Astrea Academy Dearne has been graded a “Good” school by Ofsted, having previously been rated as “Requires Improvement”.

The report, which you can read [here](#), is extremely positive, with the inspection team noting that the quality of education has rapidly improved over the last year, and that the actions we have taken have had a “positive impact on the life of the school”. The school is recognised as having a calm and positive atmosphere, with pupils typically behaving well and able to learn with little disruption.

The whole team has working incredibly hard to bring about these improvements, and I am so proud of the commitment and dedication that everyone has shown.

I hope you have an opportunity to read the report in full, but some key highlights include:

- **Our ambitious curriculum** – as a result of improvements to the design and delivery of the curriculum, our pupils now know and remember the important knowledge they have been taught and are closing gaps in knowledge they previously had.
- **SEND pupils:** we have a carefully planned SEND curriculum, through which our students are carefully supported
- **Behaviour:** the inspection team recognises the new approach we introduced last September and note that there is now a consistent approach to behaviour and that as a result our pupils behave well and respect the rules in place. Suspensions and permanent exclusions have reduced significantly now, and teachers can teach with little disruption to lessons. Both staff and pupils told Ofsted they appreciate the work that has been done to improve behaviour.
- **Attendance:** new systems and staffing are leading to better attendance, with the wider school community appreciating the importance of attending every day.
- **Preparing our students for adult life:** Ofsted commended our approach with pupils being taught how to keep themselves safe, as well as the importance of respecting equality and diversity. Leadership opportunities are also made available through initiatives such as Combined Cadet Force or the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Careers guidance is viewed as being well-planned and our pupils receive good information and support about their future pathways.
- **Prioritising the right things:** Ofsted recognise that we have focused on the right things to ensure improvement at pace. They say that these actions have had a “significant impact” on pupil behaviour and the quality of education. Our staff told Ofsted they were proud to work at Astrea Academy Dearne and that they value the actions we have taken, with these changes having a positive impact on their workload and staff wellbeing.

Overall, I hope you agree that this is an extremely positive report. There are, of course, areas we want to continue to focus on so that we can deliver on our promise of a brilliant education for every child.

I want to put on record my thanks to the wonderful staff at Astrea Academy Dearne, and to my colleagues at Astrea more widely. Reports like these are a team effort and everyone is totally committed to continuing to build on this success so that Astrea Academy Dearne goes from strength to strength and is the school that the community deserves.

Finally, we want to say a big thank you. As parents, carers and important members of our school community, your support is greatly appreciated. We see you as part of our team, and our partnership with you is central to all we do here to realise our vision.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Child
Principal
Astrea Academy Dearne

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