

Dear families

OFSTED Visit – 26 and 27 September 2023

As you will be aware, on 26 and 27 September we received our Section 5 Ofsted Inspection. I am delighted to inform you that Dixons McMillan Academy was judged to be 'Good' in all areas. This judgement matched our expectations entirely. The latest OFSTED framework is exacting, and the 'Outstanding' judgement is challenging; given that our community has also been differentially negatively impacted by the longer lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (from which we are still recovering), we are proud of this result.

We have always been clear that we exist to provide the best 11-16 education possible to students from across our city and this is what drives us, not Ofsted judgements.

However, we are proud that this report recognises the positive relationships between staff and students and acknowledges that they 'make a real difference to pupils'. Inspectors describe the school as having 'high standards for pupils' behaviour'. Furthermore, throughout the inspection it was seen that our high expectations are underpinned by 'kindness and care'. Perhaps most importantly, inspectors commended how SEND pupils are fully 'included in the life of the school'. Our literacy and reading strategies were also recognised as a real strength.

The main area for improvement listed within the report is our attendance, particularly for children with special educational needs / disabilities (SEND). We cannot improve this without your support. It is vital that all of our children attend school every day. We cannot guarantee our excellent outcomes when students are not in lessons learning.

Secondly, we were advised that we should improve our key stage 4 extra-curricular activities offer. This will be something we explore over the coming months.

You can find the report to read at your leisure on our website <https://www.dixonsma.com/about/ofsted> or on the Ofsted website.

I understand and acknowledge that some parents may have questions regarding the grading and the recommended areas for improvement. To address these, I will be holding an open forum Q&A session on Thursday 23 November from 4:30 – 5:30. Alternatively, I am happy for you to email me directly: klang@dixonsma.com.

I hope that you feel the real sense of pride in our school too when you read the report.

Yours faithfully



Kat Lang
Principal