

OFSTED INSPECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

UPDATE TO OUR LOVELY FAMILIES

(AND FOR LOCAL PRESS THAT WANTS TO SHARE OUR ACHIEVEMENT)

Dear Families,

I write with great emotion and pride to inform you that Newsome Academy has achieved an Ofsted inspection judgement of **GOOD with OUTSTANDING features**. This means your child is now attending one of the most achieving schools in the locality – and one to be immensely proud of. As am I and my team. In this letter, I will unpick and respond to our recent inspection – explaining each element and our next steps for further improvement in our mission to be a world-class school. You can see the report which is due to be published nationally in a week by [clicking here](#).



INDIVIDUAL JUDGEMENTS

- Quality of Education – **GOOD**
- Behaviour & Attitudes – **OUTSTANDING**
- Personal Development – **GOOD**
- Leadership & Management – **GOOD**

We had 5 Ofsted Inspectors – more than usual for schools our size. This is due to the wide range of support services we offer. It also shows that there was high scrutiny of the provision we offer in our school. They saw and spoke to families, staff, students and lessons in detail. One thing stood out in abundance... **FAMILY**.

These were the opening statements about our school – which were a joy to hear as my staff work tirelessly each and every day to ensure your child gets the very best start in life.

- **To be a pupil at this school is to be part of a caring, close-knit family.** Staff and pupils form strong relationships that underpin the school's work. Pupils are safe. They are nurtured to achieve their full potential. In the words of one pupil, echoing the sentiments of many, 'We belong here.'
- **Pupils respond admirably to the high expectations that staff have of them. They are happy, enjoy learning and achieve well.** Teachers support pupils very well. Pupils learn a curriculum which is constructed and designed to give them the best start in life.
- **Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are fully included in every aspect of school life. They thrive** due to the excellent pastoral care they receive.
- Pupils with SEND progress well because of the adaptations that are made to the curriculum. Pupils from all backgrounds and ages get along well. Indeed, the school mission of 'connecting hearts and minds' is fully realised.
- **Pupils look out for each other and make sure that nobody feels isolated or left out.** Pupils rarely experience bullying. Bullying is dealt with swiftly when it occurs. Rightly, pupils are very proud of their school. Pupils are encouraged to play an active part in school life. They influence the life of the school fully.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE COMMENTS IN THE REPORT AND HOW THEY FORMED THEIR JUDGEMENT.

The Inspectors also go into detail and explain how well we perform in particular areas. I have shared some responses to give families some context in each area.



The school has a highly inclusive curriculum. It ensures there are no barriers to pupils' ambitions and aspirations. There are high expectations for all. Pupils study a range of subjects that are appropriate to their needs. Their studies prepare them well for future education, employment and/or training opportunities. The school recognises that some areas of the curriculum are more developed than others. The school is taking steps to improve the consistency of the curriculum.

- Newsome performs better than schools locally and nationally with 100% of our students moving onto further education, employment or training. The Local Authority and national figure are 94%.
- The Inspectors saw curriculum areas ranging from those that are most developed and those that we have more recently introduced. This is what they mean by mentioning consistency of the curriculum in areas.



Teachers have detailed knowledge of their subjects and how to teach them well. Teachers deliver curriculum content in line with the school's policies. For example, through 'activate' tasks, teachers make sure pupils recall, and practise using, important knowledge. Pupils use detailed 'knowledge organisers' to summarise important facts and vocabulary. In most lessons, assessment is accurately used to adapt and inform teaching.

- Your child receives a consistent lesson structure, so they know what to expect in each lesson. This is important because children need routine. Inspectors praised our Learning Model where Teachers specifically plan their lessons to reflect on past learning to help their memory.
- Your child also benefits from us providing them and you (free of charge) with Knowledge Organisers and this was noted and praised.



Pupils with SEND are well supported by staff. Pupils' needs are quickly and precisely pinpointed. The school provides excellent provision for pupils with hearing impairment and physical disabilities. These pupils receive the specialist support they need to participate in and enjoy school life fully. In most lessons, the curriculum is successfully adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. For example, curriculum content is taught in bite-size chunks and repeated to ensure ideas and concepts are fully understood. The school is taking steps to improve the consistency of SEND provision across the full curriculum.

- We are very proud of the lengths and breadths we go to support all learners at all levels and the Inspectors saw this in abundance. They met with students with SEND randomly and also met with families to talk in-depth about the support we offer. These meetings were emotional and a lovely testament to the extensive work that is carried out in SEND and inclusion.
- The Inspectors saw curriculum areas ranging from those that are most developed and those that we have more recently introduced. This is what they mean by mentioning consistency of the curriculum in areas. They also heard our future visions to expand and further develop our SEND provisions.



The school prioritises reading. Pupils are provided with many opportunities to read. They are encouraged to read aloud in class, practise new vocabulary and develop their oracy skills. Pupils receive weekly literacy seminar sessions in which they read and discuss a text together. Weaker readers are quickly identified. They receive welljudged interventions. These pupils quickly become fluent readers as a result.

- ALL students benefit from our relentless commitment to literacy, and we are proud to be a Voice21 Oracy Champion School. Your child is always encouraged to read because this is proven to improve their life chances and success.
- Inspectors saw students taking advantage of this in lessons and in our Enrichment morning Seminar sessions. If you follow us on X, you will already see the fabulous work that goes on in this area.



Pupils' conduct at the school is exemplary and an excellent model of inclusion. Pupils are unfailingly polite and exhibit the school's values of respect, integrity, teamwork and aspiration. Pupils are attentive in lessons and enjoy learning. Most pupils attend school regularly. The school actively challenges and supports pupils who are more reluctant to attend.

- We always have external visitors as you know. I regularly share with you the findings of visitors that come and look at our school. It is heartwarming (and unsurprisingly) to see this also recognised by Ofsted. The vibe, feel and culture we have in OUR school is unmatched. This was further evidenced by the fact that we had wet (indoor) social times during the inspection – which can often be a challenge when students want to play football and the like.
- Inspectors were emotional when feeding back how well our children are cared for and the culture that we have in school. They noted how positive the relationships were and the wide range of opportunities we offer them.
- Inspectors also met students that have previously been suspended from school and reviewed our behaviour systems and procedures. They agreed and praised our stance on expectations.



Pupils learn about healthy relationships, consent and how to keep themselves safe online. Pupils develop their character through various leadership opportunities. They actively influence aspects of life in the school and wider community. For example, democracy champions have influenced the uniform worn by pupils in school and local members of parliament and councillors within the local authority. Pupils develop a sound understanding of employability skills through the school's 'business conscience' approach to personal development. Pupils participate in a wide variety of inclusive clubs, including wheelchair basketball, DJ club, British Sign Language and cooking.

- We have a range of Student Leaders who play a very vital role in the development of our school. They and many others (randomly chosen by Inspectors) spoke about their experiences at school. Inspectors were overwhelmed with how articulate and confident they were.
- The Inspectors recognised the great achievements our Student Leaders have gained and the work they do both in school and the wider community and indeed the wide range of after-school clubs and activities that are offered for your child. They were also impressed with the Year 11 Period 6 (free) tuition offer we have – evidencing the importance of attending.



Leaders inspire staff and pupils. Transformative changes to the school have been made by skilled and determined leaders. They have a sharp understanding of the school's many strengths and remaining areas for development. Governors and trustees provide support and hold school leaders to account effectively. Staff at the school are very well supported. The school ensures that staff's well-being and workload are well managed.

- Those families that have had children in our school pre 2018 will know fully the transformational journey we have been on. They will also have seen huge changes and improvements to the standards we now have. A special recognition needs to be had for those who have already sent their well wishes and pride through emails, texts and comments on our X platform.
- Newsome has never been as higher graded school as it is now. It is a proud moment to now, with the support of our Impact Multi-Academy Trust Partners and Governors to finally be recognised for the amazing work that is being done.

To quote a response I gave over the weekend to the families that have sent their praise ***“Great schools need families such as you that positively engage and care for the development of the school and take advantage of the range of opportunities available to them. Ones that work with us and equally strive for excellence together.”***

Yours with love and great pride



Dean Watkin
Headteacher