



Northgate High School

Inspiring excellence, fulfilling potential

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Headteacher Mr Glyn Hambling, B.Ed. (Hons), M.Sc.

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the inspection by Ofsted on the 10th & 11th October 2013. There were five inspectors who spent two days looking at all aspects of education at the school. The inspectors examined the school's work by observing lessons, looking at pupil's books, interviewing pupils, staff and governors and studying parent and staff questionnaires.

I am extremely pleased to inform you that the inspection team concluded that the school should be judged '**Good**' overall and confirms the schools own self-evaluation judgement and reflects the new Ofsted framework for inspection.

Inspection Judgements

Overall effectiveness	2 (Good)
Achievement of pupils	2 (Good)
Quality of teaching	2 (Good)
Behaviour and safety of pupils	2 (Good)
Leadership & Management	2 (Good)

Ofsted recognised that our school is a '**good**' school. There are many positives that we can draw from this report and I have identified some key findings as follows;

This is a good school.

- Students' GCSE attainment has risen rapidly over the past two years and, overall, students reach average standards from below-average attainment on entry to the school.
- English results in particular have improved considerably at GCSE.
- The sixth form is good. Standards and progress in the sixth form have maintained consistently good levels.
- Students' behaviour is good overall, and sixth form students have mature attitudes to learning.
- Teaching is good in most subjects. Staff use their extensive subject knowledge to build on what students have learned previously.
- Leaders and managers at all levels have a clear focus on tracking students' achievement, and the importance of this is understood well by staff.
- The monitoring of teaching is accurately based on a wide range of evidence, so that staff training needs are identified clearly.
- The school uses a good range of data on students' progress and attainment very effectively to identify areas for improvement.
- Leaders' and governors' plans to raise students' achievement and the quality of teaching are detailed, well targeted and effective.
- Governors have a clear understanding of the school and offer a good level of challenge to school leaders, so that standards have risen rapidly.



Achievement and standards have been a significant improvement focus for our school and all staff are fully committed to continuing to raise standards for all pupils. Inspectors noted that the proportion of students achieving five GCSE grades A* - C including English & Mathematics, has risen from below average to above average over the past three years. In English, the proportion of students making good or better progress has risen sharply in 2013 and the effective measures that the school has taken to ensure this improvement are sustaining better performance in the current year.

Inspectors also acknowledged that specific Year 7 funding to help students who are behind in English & Mathematics on entry to the school is used effectively. The schools' focus on developing reading was also judged to be good with weaker readers being helped to make good progress through the effective use of phonics.

Achievement in the sixth form is good with achievements in line or above national results.

Quality of teaching was judged '**Good**' and has developed well since the previous inspection as a result of the schools careful monitoring procedures and the training that has been given to individual staff. Outstanding examples of teaching were seen, particularly, in English, Physical Education and History. Our staff use their subject knowledge well to plan appropriately challenging lessons, so that students of all abilities, including the more able, achieve well. The 'Northgate Lesson' continues to help our teachers set tasks that build on what our learners have learnt previously.

We are particularly proud that teaching in the sixth form by our staff was seen as a strength of the school and that our teachers use their impressive subject knowledge to explain clearly what students are to learn. Our students appreciate the challenge offered to them in lessons and they take a mature and responsible attitude to their learning.

Behaviour in the school is '**Good**' and our students show increasingly mature attitudes to their learning as they move through the age range. They have positive attitudes towards the school; they are attentive in lessons and respectful towards staff and other students. Both staff and parents reported that students like coming to school and this view was confirmed by our students themselves. During discussions with inspectors our students stated that they felt safe in the school, and reported that bullying was rare and dealt with effectively. Our students said they were well supported in main school and sixth form and spoke highly of provision for personal development and mentoring.

Leadership and Management at the school was inspected throughout the two days and judged to be '**Good**'. Inspectors noted that senior leaders and governors across the main school and sixth form shared a clear commitment to raise standards and achievement through setting high expectations, regular tracking of students' progress and promoting improvements in teaching. These measures have successfully ensured a rise in standards at GCSE and maintained high standards in sixth form.

Our governing body is experienced, well trained and offer good support and challenge to the leadership team through effective arrangements for meetings and visits to the school.

Ofsted made a few recommendations for continuing to improve the school which will form the basis of the schools future improvement and development planning.

This report reflects the wonderful relationship between students, staff and families of Northgate High School. We all know Northgate is a great school. We are a school which takes every opportunity to reflect on where we are now and where we need to be; the inspection has served as an additional tool for us in this respect and we will continue to drive on the standards across the school and ensure we get the best for every student at the school.

I would like to encourage you to read the full report which is available on the school website at www.northgate.norfolk.sch.uk If you would like a hard copy of the report then please contact the school and we can arrange for a copy to be forwarded to your home address.

I would like to thank you for helping to foster the love of learning and the real commitment to the school community which is so evident in our pupils, and which makes and will continue to make Northgate a wonderful place to learn, to grow and to be. I look forward to your continued support.

I am more than happy to meet with parents. If you have any concerns or you would like to discuss these findings further please contact Dorothy Steer my PA who will arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glyn Hambling', written in a cursive style.

Glyn Hambling
Headteacher