



Northgate High School

Inspiring excellence, fulfilling potential

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Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA: Mrs Z Galley and Dr D Hone

27th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form College were subject to a two day Ofsted inspection on May 23rd and 24th. We are delighted to inform you that the Ofsted report has now been released, so we can share with you that we received a resounding 'Good' judgement in every area of the report.

The report begins, quite rightly, with the students. The five inspectors found that **'Pupils at Northgate High School are polite and courteous'** and that **'Sixth-form students act with maturity and confidence'**; **'Students comment very positively on their sixth form experience'** and, very importantly, **'Pupils feel safe'** on all our sites.

As Heads, we have always known that our hard working and dedicated staff, and their strong relationships with the students, are what makes our school and college so special. Ofsted have recognised that **'Teachers have high expectations'** and that **'The curriculum enables pupils to achieve well. This is a result of the ambition of leaders for all pupils to succeed, and of effective provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) at all key stages.'**

The Ofsted inspectors also found that **'Lessons are typically calm, with little low-level disruption'** and that **'Pupils have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities'**, also noting that **'The school is well led and managed'** and **'Trustees are ambitious for the school'**.

Every Ofsted report concludes with a section which asks, **'What does the school need to do to improve?'**. Whilst not complacent, we are pleased that the Ofsted inspectors have, unusually, only recommended one change for improvement: **'Leaders need to ensure that the best practice seen in the strongest subjects is replicated across all subjects to enable pupils to use knowledge fluently.'** We can assure you we have already begun work on this!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, staff and students for their support. The enormous pride our community has in the school and college came across to the inspectors, and us as Headteachers, again and again over the two inspection days. Thank you so much to those who took the time to feed back to Ofsted. It was an extremely affirming experience to hear how the school and college have shaped and supported your children through both good and challenging times. It really is a partnership, and we are fortunate to have such strong community support.

Best wishes,

Zoë Galley

Duncan Hone

Mrs Z Galley

Dr D Hone

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