



27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and that your child has settled back into the school well at the start of the new academic year.

I am pleased to share with you the report from our recent Ofsted monitoring visit that took place on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

The inspector spent the day hearing from our staff and students about the changes we have implemented since the last inspection. He visited a number of lessons and met with our senior leadership team and Trust leads.

I am delighted to share that Ofsted has recognised the real progress we are making thanks to the clear improvement plan we have. The visit was a "Section 8" monitoring inspection, which means the overall Ofsted grade cannot be changed. The inspector identified that we are making strong progress towards addressing the areas which led to the school being judged requires improvement in the previous inspection. I would encourage you to read the report in full <https://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk/ofsted/>.

Throughout the report, Ofsted have highlighted the hard work and tireless efforts that our fantastic staff as well as the Trust, have put in to achieve improvement across the school. I wanted to share a number of key points from the report with you all, including the following.

### **Improvements to quality of education**

The inspector highlighted how our school has prioritised 'improving the quality of education' and the work to implement new strategies to deliver the curriculum through our 'teaching excellence framework' is supporting students to effectively build their knowledge.

In particular, Ofsted were pleased to see how support for students in the early stages of their reading had improved significantly and that they now receive the extra help they need.

The quality of education will continue to be of the highest priority for us as a school and while we know there is important work to be done, however, we are clear that we are on the right track to ensure the necessary improvements continue to take place.

### **New expectation for behaviour and attitudes to learning**

Ofsted also commended the work we have done to secure improvements to students' behaviour and their attitudes to learning. We are pleased to see the recognition of the high expectations we have set for students' conduct.

As outlined in the report, we have a number of clear plans to ensure we continue to implement our high expectation of behaviour across the school, enabling students to focus on their learning. This includes the recruitment of our new Deputy Headteacher Eddie Child who will be overseeing this work closely.

### **Attendance**

Whilst Ofsted has recognised the work we have been doing to improve attendance, we know there is more that we need to do. I would therefore ask you to support me in every way possible to ensure that your child is attending school every day and is in each class on time and ready to learn.

We will be closely monitoring the attendance of each student and flagging when there are consistent unexplained absences. There has also been a renewed focus and approach on reducing lateness to lessons, as this is not only detrimental to the individual but also disturbs the learning of others. In order to achieve this, we would also appreciate your continued support in encouraging your child to be at school every day and on time.

### **Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)**

Support for students with SEND is of paramount importance for us as a school. Ofsted has also recognised the rapid changes we have made to ensure students with SEND receive the support they need. This has included the recruitment of Mrs Husband, as Deputy Headteacher, SEND and Inclusion, Mrs Smallridge as a qualified SENCo and Mrs Hayward who has taken up an internal promotion as Deputy SENCo and has already begun the SENCo qualification, who are collectively leading on streamlining systems to accurately track the needs of students with SEND and delivering SEND-specific training to all teachers.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the progress of our school, and highlight the successful changes being made. While we are pleased to see the positive steps, we have taken so far outlined in the report, our staff have a clear and tireless commitment to continue to drive improvement to ensure we are delivering the highest standard of education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my senior team if you have any questions.

Thank you, as always for your ongoing support and cooperation – it is always very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Victoria Hall

Headteacher

The Birley Academy