



Caroline Brooker
Headteacher

PROUD TO BE GOOD

You will, I hope, forgive us if we are shouting from the rooftops about our 'Good' OFSTED rating. There are two reasons we are doing so: first, because we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved since our last inspection, and we want the whole town to share that pride in its high school. And secondly, because the judgement, and what it means, is incredibly good news for North Walsham and the surrounding area.

The achievement first: just 20 months ago, OFSTED published a report which gave the school a 'Requires Improvement' rating. We said at the time that we thought that this was harsh, and at odds with much of the report's narrative which highlighted much that was good.

However, the 2013 inspection gave us some specific areas to work on, and we embraced that criticism as the basis for a plan to improve what we do.

The whole school community has been involved on implementing that plan: staff, of course, but also parents, students and governors. It has been a lot of hard work and I acknowledge that it has not always been easy.

I hope that our 'Good' rating makes it all worthwhile. To turn things around in such a short period of time is a significant achievement, and I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed. You, like me, share a determination to provide our young people with the best possible foundation for their futures; OFSTED's judgement shows that we are now doing this across every aspect of what we do.

If we can all be proud of what we have achieved, I would like to see that pride becomes more widespread in the community. Strong schools, and especially a strong high school, is such an important part of any strong community.

Sadly, it is all too easy to criticise, and often reputation can lag behind the reality. So I would encourage you to speak up for North Walsham High School, to spread the word that we are a 'Good' school, and to engender that sense of pride that we are part of North Walsham.

That we are providing our young people with a good education is not just positive for those young people themselves, it has huge benefits for the wider community. Our students represent the future of North Walsham and its surrounding area – the economic future, the social future, the cultural future.

They are the future employees, the future entrepreneurs, the future carers and, of course, the future parents. Whilst we at the school will always be mindful of OFSTED's view, their judgement is not the most important thing: what is crucial is that we are delivering against our responsibility to our young people.

- If you haven't read the OFSTED report, I would urge you to do so. You can download it from our website at www.northwalshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk.



"I want to congratulate Mrs Brooker, the students and all of the staff on this significant achievement."

"It is widely known that OFSTED inspections are becoming ever more rigorous, so to move from where we were to being rated 'Good' in such a short period of time is tremendous – and I know just how much hard work has been put in to achieve it."

"North Walsham has a high school of which it can be proud. I hope that the local community continues to support what we are trying to do at NWHS, and will help us in our ambition to keep improving."

Alex Robinson, Chair of Governors

WHAT OFSTED SAID: SOME QUOTES FROM THE REPORT

Leadership and Management

- “Leaders at all levels, including governors, are effective. Their ambition and rigour are having a significant impact on the achievement of students and upon the quality of teaching.”
- “The curriculum prepares students well for life in modern Britain through well-planned lessons and schemes for learning.”
- “The spiritual, moral, social and cultural provision of the school is a strength.”
- “A well-planned programme of careers guidance effectively raises students’ aspirations.”
- “Substantial links with local employers are effective in increasing the ambition and motivation of pupils.”
- “School leaders have worked hard to reach parents using different forms of communication, including social media, and survey data shows a high degree of satisfaction from the parent community.”

Quality of Teaching

- “Teachers are successful in raising the aspirations and academic success of their students.”
- “Good teaching over time in a substantial range of subjects is leading to improved progress across all year groups. Teachers exhibit enthusiasm and commitment.”
- “Teachers plan well, have good subject knowledge and base work on a sound analysis of the strengths and weaknesses in students’ previous work. Work is well-matched to the needs of learners as a result.”
- “Students enjoy their learning. They find their work engaging and challenging, and this results in a positive climate for learning and accelerated progress.”
- “Homework is now set more regularly by teachers and can be monitored by school leaders and parents via a link on the school website.”

Behaviour and Safety

- Inappropriate behaviour rarely hinders learning, and students’ conduct at informal times of the school day is similarly considerate. Students of all ages mix well; they are polite and helpful to visitors.”
- “The Attitudes to Learning Programme has had a major impact on student behaviour.”
- “The overwhelming majority of students take pride in their work.”
- “Students feel happy at school, and surveys show that the very large majority of parents agree.”
- “Bullying is rare and is dealt with well by school leaders when it does occur.”
- “Surveys and questionnaires show that both parents and staff agree with inspectors that safety is a strength of the school.”

Achievement of Pupils

- “The progress of students is accelerating, and this improvement is being sustained over time.”
- “Overall, attainment is rising... The attainment of disadvantaged students is improving rapidly.”
- “Current progress in Key Stage 4 is strong, Progress in English and Mathematics is currently on track to exceed expected progress nationally.”
- “Inspectors found that school leaders have successfully addressed the areas where published data showed less than expected progress in 2014.”
- “Achievement of students in science over time is good, particularly in Key Stage 3.”
- “Progress in Key Stage 3 is consistently strong in mathematics.”

**North
Walsham
High School**

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To report a student absence or email pastoral

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