



## **RE: New Ofsted Rating**

Dear Parents/Carers,

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, Ofsted inspectors visited Heworth Grange School as part of a section 5 inspection. Following this inspection, I am pleased to say that we have increased our Ofsted grading from 'Inadequate' to 'Requires Improvement'. One point which is of particular highlight is the fact Ofsted has noted that "Heworth Grange School is on a journey of transformation."

Ofsted further commented that leaders at Heworth Grange are passionate about driving improvement and change at the school and that we are invested in the academic success of all our students. Inspectors also noted that leaders from the Trust are driving improvements with integrity. It is clear to Ofsted that we have prioritised the curriculum and have further focused on building a respectful culture within our school.

Additionally, there was a key mention of our robust careers provision for all students. The inspectors noted that we were creative in how we devised opportunities for students to interact with employers – particularly around Covid-19 restrictions. Inspectors also noted the provisions in place for our students with SEND which ensure they receive additional guidance so that they are well prepared to take their next steps after Heworth Grange.

Furthermore, I am incredibly proud of the feedback students shared with inspectors about our school. Their comments included talking positively about the changes they are seeing in school, with older students saying that behaviour is getting better. In addition, Year 7 students described the school as 'friendly', and inspectors noted that many students are beginning to share teachers' positive attitudes towards their learning.

We have made some fantastic changes already at Heworth Grange and this report showcases that we are definitely on the right path. However, we are also very clear about the changes that still need to happen in order for us to meet our student and staff ambitions.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the inspection report. This will appear on the Ofsted website in the coming week. Please take some time to read this report in full as it describes, in full, the improvements happening within our school.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our school and wider Trust team for their ongoing hard work, support, and dedication to ensuring we continue to improve every aspect of education at Heworth Grange School. In addition, I would like to thank parents and carers for the support you have given to the school which is vital to our on-going improvement journey.

Kind regards,

Allie Denholm  
Headteacher, Heworth Grange School