

Yorkshire Post Press Release – comment on Carleton Community High School (CCHS) recent OFSTED inspection.

‘The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is good.

Leaders and Governors have ensured that pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. This is supplemented by a wide range of extra-curricular activities and trips, both after school and at lunchtime. The school prepares pupils well for life in modern Britain.

Teachers used questioning effectively in many of the lessons seen to develop pupils’ ideas and check on their understanding. Staff receive regular and effective trainingThis is beginning to have a positive impact on teachers’ planning and pupils’ outcomes, especially those of disadvantaged pupils.’

A broad flavour of the many positive statements within the report.

Despite these, the snapshot two day visit in January by an OFSTED inspection team has not captured the full and successful journey of this school, including the views of 88% of parents who would recommend the school to others.

John Gough – a founding member of Pontefract Academies Trust, CCHS school governor and Chair of Governors at NEW College, which is rated as outstanding by Ofsted - commented ‘We are naturally very disappointed that the school has been judged by OFSTED as inadequate in **one** area of the inspection framework. I have first-hand experience of what it takes to be rated as outstanding by Ofsted – and I have also witnessed the progress made by Carleton Community High School, particularly since the last inspection in 2015. The outcomes for all students are significantly improved. Personally, I don’t think the evidence supports the judgement that has been reached – but at the end of the day our focus remains on driving improvement in all our schools.’

Julie Craig CEO of Pontefract Academies Trust stated that ‘Whilst we don’t believe that the grading that the inspectors have applied is accurate, we do accept the recommendations within the report. In fact those areas had already been identified and feature significantly in the in the 2016-17 School Improvement Plan. To satisfy the requirements of the inspection outcome, we will need to adjust some of the actions and accelerate the pace and impact of our work. That process is already underway. We are proud of the improvements we have made at the school and, for that reason, we have disputed the grading. The complaint and review process is still in progress, but none of that changes our intentions to implement the plans that we believe will not only improve the grading at the next inspection but, more importantly, will continue to improve the school for the benefit of our students.’

Headteacher, Hellen Bolton, commented, ‘I have been really impressed by the way staff and students have responded to the challenge that the leadership team has set out for them, particularly over the last few weeks. We are of course continuing to focus on ensuring that the high expectations for teaching and learning at Carleton are met by all. We are confident that as a team we can build upon the strengths which exist and continue to improve the outcomes for our learners in the future’.

Pontefract Academies Trust

24 March 2017