

14 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

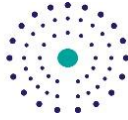
I am writing to let you know the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection on 30 April 2024-1 May 2024. The inspection was thorough and involved a detailed examination of every part of our school as well as a number of meetings with staff, students and parents.

Ofsted has now sent us its final report – and I am incredibly proud to say that it has concluded that John Smeaton Academy is a ‘Good’ school in all areas, for the first time for more than 10 years.

As you may know, a decade ago the school was placed into Special Measures. In every inspection since, Ofsted has rated John Smeaton either Inadequate or Requires Improvement. Many people had given up on it and thought our school could never be good. But today’s report, the first since the school joined The GORSE Academies Trust in 2021, has shown what we – our staff team, you, our supportive parents and carers, and of course our fantastic students, your children – can do. Ofsted has described it as a “startling transformation”. It is an achievement we should all take credit for and be very proud of – and I would like to thank you all hugely for your contribution to this success.

The full report is available on our website here <https://www.johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk/academy-information/ofsted-information/> and I would encourage you to read it in full. However, some of the highlights are as follows:

- “Staff have worked with pupils to transform standards of behaviour. A consistent ‘positive discipline’ approach, rooted in caring kindness and active intervention, is consistently in place throughout the school.”
- “Pupils share the ambitions that staff have for them and value the kindness shown to them.”
- “This school is now a beacon for its community. Pupils, staff, parents and carers are right to be proud of all that they have achieved.”
- “Pupils increasingly benefit from the well-considered curriculum that is in place.”
- “Older pupils speak of the positive changes they have seen and the opportunities that they now have. They know that the school is providing them with ‘the gift of choice’. They are increasingly well prepared for their next steps.”
- “The school is determined to address disadvantage, to raise pupils’ ambitions and give them opportunities to develop their talents and interests. The enrichment clubs and activities are numerous, well-attended and include the ‘Big 3’ of karate, rowing and volleyball. Pupils experience many exciting trips and competitions alongside opportunities to give something back to the community. All of this, and more, helps pupils to flourish.”
- “Trust and school leaders have swiftly improved the quality of education.”
- “All staff know the role that they have in improving attendance. A range of strategies are in place, including schemes such as the 100% attendance club.”



Principal: Mr A Moncur BA (Hons)
Chair of Governors: Cllr Ryan Stephenson BA (Hons)

Chief Executive Officer: Sir John Townsley BA (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Mrs L Griffiths BSc (Hons) NPQH

Whilst we are delighted, I want you to know that this is not the end of our story. We will continue to work hard every day for your children so that the school is always its very best. Thank you again for your support – and congratulations for what we have achieved together.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Moncur
Principal