



13th September 2022

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Arden Academy Ofsted Inspection – June 2022

As you are all aware we were inspected by Ofsted on the 14th and 15th June 2022, our first inspection since 2008. We are now able to share the official inspection report with you.

The headline findings of the report are that:

- There is a culture of “exceptionally high aspirations that permeate the school” that ensures our students do well
- Our students have access to an enormous array of co-curricular opportunities that supplement their core curriculum and support their education and development in the widest sense
- Our students are well mannered, polite and a credit to the school
- Relationships are exemplary noting that “the positive relationships between staff and pupils are a joy to observe”
- Our teachers teach individuals, not classes; and
- The four subjects mentioned in the report were ‘Deep Dived’ and found to be exemplary

The full report celebrates the many strengths of Arden and, broadly speaking, portrays our school accurately, characterised by staff who “want pupils to thrive and achieve strong academic outcomes”. We are particularly proud of the many fantastic compliments that our students received both in the formal report where they are described as “friendly, courteous and welcoming” and in the verbal feedback which described them as “mature, well-mannered and engaging”.

We are, however, frustrated that our Year 11, 12 and 13 cohorts were not in school during the inspection. We pride ourselves on how our students grow, mature and develop throughout their time at Arden, becoming fantastic, well-rounded young people at the end of their time with us. It is a source of great disappointment that the inspection team were not able to properly meet and observe those students.

Nonetheless, we are exceptionally proud of the content of the report and the categorisation of our school as ‘Good’.



Please note that the Ofsted framework used for this inspection is significantly different to previous frameworks, including the one used for our last inspection in 2008. However, whilst it is not therefore possible to directly compare categories between different frameworks, the Lead Inspector stated that, in their opinion, Arden would have been designated as outstanding under the previous frameworks.

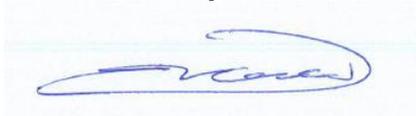
This conclusion is evidenced by the BTEC, GCSE and A Level results that our students received this summer which were the best the school has ever achieved. Not only were these better than our 2019 outcomes (the last year of 'normal' external examinations) but also better than the centre and teacher assessed grades of 2020 and 2021. We are one of just a small handful of schools in the country to achieve this.

In closing let us share with you the thoughts of the Lead Inspector towards the end of the inspection, who asked themselves 'would I send my child here?' Their response was: "without doubt". We trust you feel the same and we look forward to continuing to work with you all to deliver and consistently improve on all that we do to provide the highest level of education and personal development for your children, and our fantastic students.

We now invite you to read the full report which you can access via the following link from our school website:

<https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Files/About-Us/Arden-Academy-Ofsted-Inspection-Report-June-2022.pdf>

Yours sincerely



Mr Warwood
Associate Headteacher



Martin Carter
Chair of Governors

Further Information on the Ofsted Framework

For more information on how the current Ofsted framework gradings should be read in relation to previous frameworks, we would like to draw your attention to a link from Chris Russell, Ofsted's National Director. The current Ofsted framework can be found here:

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/downgraded-outstanding-schools-may-have-actually-improved-says-ofsted-director/>