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March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware that the school was visited by a group of inspectors from Ofsted shortly before the half term holiday, on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February. This was part of the planned national inspections framework, and we were expecting a visit before the end of the academic year. I am pleased to enclose with this communication a copy of the report.

Although the report itself is quite short, the process of feedback to us means that we were given a lot more information by the inspection team as they shared their findings with us on the final day of the inspection. I would like to highlight some of these areas to give further detail to the report.

We are delighted that the inspectors highlighted that we are on our way to becoming a good school through our carefully thought-out curriculum plans and that there was clarity around ethos and vision by the leaders which was shared and understood by the whole community of the school. We were keen to make clear to the inspectors that we were passionate about improving the life chances of our students, and they agreed. They were impressed by the strength of our ambition for our students and the togetherness of our staff. I was proud that they identified that diversity is “just accepted as the norm” in our school.

They were also particularly impressed by the inclusion of all students in our school regardless of need and background and praised the work of the SEN team to level the playing field for students with special educational needs. Furthermore, they said that the SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) needs of our students are being met well, and this included the fact that students know to whom they should report bullying or when feeling anxious. The inspection team also praised the careers guidance received by students and the PSHE curriculum, which they said was well-structured. They stressed that there was a good range of extracurricular activities, and that this contributed towards talents and interests which are being nurtured well at Weston. They also recognised that there was a good celebration of festivals which contributed to the feeling of the acceptance of cultural diversity being the norm in our school.

Regarding behaviour and attitudes, they said that leaders are doing what we can to improve this. They identified that the systems that we have put into place and continue to improve are robust and are contributing to the ever-improving culture of our school.

They were impressed with the opportunities for professional development for our staff which would lead to continued improvement in teaching and learning in the school. Further to this they felt that the work the school is doing to improve the curriculum was being done well and would contribute to greater attendance at school, but we are not there yet. They agreed with us that the work that we have started in order to create better relationships with our community would also give us the opportunity to improve attendance at school by continuing to have high expectations that parents and carers support children by ensuring that they consistently attend school.

Finally, we were exceptionally proud that the inspection team supported the vision of leadership and management at every level was identified as strength by the inspection and provides us with

a strong foundation on which to build before the next inspection within three years' time. They were impressed by leaders' knowledge of the school and the students, and that we were firm in what needs to be addressed and implemented to move our school forward to further enhance the life chances of all the children who attend the school.

This report represents a positive step forward for Weston, we remain fully committed to continuing to make the necessary changes to build on this. We look forward to the new headteacher, Mr Butterworth's arrival as he is excited to be leading our progress still further, and I look forward to working with him to achieve this, continuing the journey we are on. I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school, and publicly thank both our students and staff, whose hard work has contributed to the recent report.

Kind regards,

Andy Papanicolaou

Interim Head of School