

12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**Ely College's Ofsted inspection 2025**

Dear parents and carers,

We are delighted to share that Ely College has received an extremely positive report from Ofsted, following our inspection on 25 and 26 March 2025. This was an ungraded monitoring inspection, meaning that Ofsted does not give an overall rating this time. Instead, the inspection focuses on confirming whether a school has taken effective action to maintain standards identified in a previous inspection. Our last graded Ofsted inspection was in 2019, when we were rated "Good" overall and "Outstanding" for Leadership and Management.

We are pleased the new report found **"the school's work may have improved significantly across all areas since the previous inspection"**. This is one of four possible outcomes for an ungraded inspection. This outcome means "if a graded inspection took place: at least one key or provision judgement would be higher; none would be lower; all would be outstanding."

The report highlights several key strengths which we are proud to share with you:

- Pupils enjoy attending this inclusive school and feel safe. Pupils feel known as individuals in this large school.
- The broad and ambitious curriculum engages all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Pupils access a high-quality offer of enrichment opportunities with a diverse range of activities and a very broad personal development offer.
- Teachers are highly skilled at adapting the learning to meet pupils' needs.
- Pupils achieve highly and are well prepared for the next steps in their education, employment or training.
- The behaviour of many pupils is exemplary. They are polite and respectful.
- Trustees and governors know the school exceptionally well and provide an equal balance of support and holding leaders effectively to account.

Ofsted specifically recognised:

- The school's broad and rich curriculum is well considered. It is ambitious and challenging for all pupils. There is a wide range of academic and vocational courses, particularly in the sixth form. The curriculum builds well on pupils' previous learning and takes account of their different needs.
- The school has a strong culture of reading. Pupils read a wide variety of challenging texts. If pupils struggle to read fluently when they join, the school provides effective support to help them build their confidence.
- Staff, including early career teachers, say that they are very well supported. They feel valued and appreciate how leaders look after their well-being and workload.

This report comes at a key time for the College as we look forward to the official opening of our new state-of-the-art sixth form centre very soon; a truly exciting moment for our students, staff and the wider Ely community. The report notes the number of sixth form students has increased in recent years and our "inclusive approach provides an opportunity for students to study courses they may not be able to access in other schools."

The report can be accessed from the Ofsted report website and from the College's Ofsted page. The link to access the report [can be found here](#).

Thank you to our staff and students for their part in welcoming Ofsted, and for everyone's hard work and dedication which clearly shines through in this report. It's an achievement for all of us in the school community and across the wider Meridian Trust family. We remain dedicated to building on this success, and addressing areas for further development, to ensure we're a truly great college; a beacon of excellence of which our whole community can be proud.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Warburton

Principal

Ely College