

2nd July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted Inspection – June 2019

We've been looking forward to writing you this letter for three years.

I am delighted to share with you our OFSTED report following our full inspection on 11th and 12th June 2019. Ely College has been awarded an overall rating of 'Good' with 'Outstanding' leadership and management. This comes just three years after we joined CMAT and follows our success last summer, which saw us crowned as 'Secondary School of the Year' at the Cambridge News Education Awards and achieve some of the best GCSE results in our history.

The report is an accurate reflection of all the hard work and dedication that our staff and students have put in to transforming the school over the last three years. Thank you to all of you for supporting us on every step of this journey and enabling us to become the school we are today.

The report rates the College as Good for 'quality of teaching, learning and assessment', 'personal development and welfare', 'behaviour' and 'outcomes for pupils'. Our sixth form provision, Bishop Laney Sixth Form, was also rated Good.

The 'effectiveness of leadership and management' was judged to be Outstanding. Inspectors said: "Since taking up his post in September 2016, the principal has been unwavering in his determination that only the best will do. Senior leaders, the trust and governors have successfully transformed the culture in the school." They continued: "The quality of teaching, learning and assessment, achievement and behaviour have all improved significantly as a result."

I would strongly suggest you read the report in full as it makes for great reading, but our key highlights are detailed below:

- Leaders have transformed the school by successfully establishing a culture of high expectations of both staff and pupils. As a result, the quality of education has improved rapidly. Parents and pupils recognise the significant improvements that leaders have made.
- Leaders have worked relentlessly to improve behaviour, teaching and achievement. Staff share leaders' ambition and want the best for pupils.
- The overwhelming majority of parents who responded to Parent View, Ofsted's online questionnaire, were supportive of school leaders and acknowledged that significant improvements had been made.
- The Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (the trust) has been instrumental in securing rapid improvements in the school. School leaders' work with the trust has contributed to improved teaching, learning and assessment and ensuring that leadership at all levels is strong.
- Teaching is effective in helping most pupils to make strong progress in many subjects, including English and mathematics.

- Leaders have carefully constructed a curriculum that supports pupils' academic and personal development well. An extensive range of extra-curricular activities, a well-planned personal social and health education (PSHE) programme and the PLEDGES system contributes strongly to preparing pupils for life in modern British society.
- Governors have a comprehensive knowledge of the school. They provide appropriate support and challenge which ensures that school leaders' actions result in improvements.
- Adults know pupils well and provide them with the support needed to complete their studies and progress to education, training or employment.
- The sixth form provision is good. Students typically achieve well on the vocational courses offered. Leaders have re-introduced A-level courses to broaden opportunities for post-16 study in the local area.

Again, I would like to thank you for your continued support and hope you will join us in celebrating this exciting milestone for the college and the wider community.

Everyone here remains ambitious for the future of the college and the next phase of our development. This week we are launching our new college moto: *An exceptional college for an exceptional community.*

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Spencer', written over a faint circular stamp.

Richard Spencer
Principal