

**28 June 2024**

Dear families

I hope you are well and that you and your child are looking forward to the summer break.

I am writing today to share an update on our latest Ofsted report, following the inspection which took place on 24 and 25 April. We have always been clear we exist to provide the best education possible to students in our community and this is what drives us, not Ofsted judgements. What matters most to us is the positive difference we are making for our students – which is why we are so pleased this report recognises the journey we are on, our recent “period of significant change” and that students “value the recent improvements” we have made already.

This was the first inspection since our academy became part of Dixons Academies Trust in 2021. At the time, Fazakerley was ‘Inadequate’ and joined the Trust to gain support with driving much needed improvements. We are very pleased that, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our colleagues across the school and the Trust, our rating has now risen to ‘Requires Improvement’. We remain absolutely committed to continuing this journey of improvement.

Among our academy’s strengths highlighted in the report:

- “Most pupils’ behaviour is improving rapidly. This is helping pupils to feel safer and happier at school than they did in the past.”
- “Most pupils act respectfully towards each other.”
- “The school has raised its expectations of pupils’ conduct” and “most pupils behave well during lessons”.
- “The Trust has helped the school to raise its expectations of pupils’ achievement. This includes for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).”
- “Leaders at all levels of the school now share trustees’ vision to provide a high-quality education. The pace of much needed improvement has increased as a result.”
- “The Trust has introduced a curriculum that is ambitious for pupils, including for those with SEND.”
- “The school identifies pupils who struggle with reading. These pupils receive skilful support that helps them to catch up with their peers. The school’s strong emphasis on reading encourages pupils to read more often than in the past.”
- “Pupils access a well-considered careers programme, including a widening range of opportunities to engage with the world of work.”
- “A growing number of pupils enjoy participating in various extra-curricular clubs.”
- “A comprehensive programme of personal development helps pupils learn about tolerance and respect for people who are different to themselves.”
- “Staff feel well supported. They appreciate how leaders consider their workload, for example by streamlining approaches to marking pupils’ work.”

We knew our improvement journey would take time and we are very pleased our plans are on track and starting to make the positive impact we are aiming for. As you will know, a big focus for us has been on attendance and behaviour, so children are in school and able to learn in a calm, respectful environment so they can reach their full potential. This is absolutely vital to their success, and we know there is more work to be done – as the inspectors noted, too many students are persistently absent, which will have a deeply negative impact on their learning. This is why we will continue to work closely with students, families and staff to ensure our students are able to meet the high ambitions we all hold for their futures.



We are continuing to work hard on our positive trajectory to 'Good' and moving forward with a range of strategies to drive further improvements across the school, including:

- Supporting staff to deliver the curriculum consistently well so pupils are able to succeed in their learning. As part of this, we are working closely with staff to ensure the curriculum is consistently adapting to meet the needs of SEND pupils and supporting individual pupils with any gaps in their learning.
- Continuing to work closely with families to understand the causes of absences and any behavioural issues so pupils can be in school, ready to learn and be successful in their lives. We are pleased Ofsted recognised our renewed focus on attendance is supporting pupils to attend more regularly, which is absolutely crucial to their ability to learn.
- Working closely with staff and pupils to ensure all pupils know who to speak to if they have any concerns at all. We do not tolerate any bullying or discrimination and we are pleased inspectors recognised we are able to tackle this "quickly and effectively" when it does happen.

The full report is now available to view on our website. <https://www.dixonsfa.com/about/ofsted>

We will of course continue to focus on providing a rigorous and joyful education for all students and ensuring our school is at the heart of our community. We can't thank you enough for your ongoing support. It really does make a difference to everything we do, and we simply couldn't do it without you.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson  
**Principal**