

Dear Parent and Carers,

RE: Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport – ‘Good’ Ofsted Report

This week was our first full week back since our return after the summer. Thank you for the excellent and positive way students returned to school for the new term. I have been particularly pleased to welcome our new year 7 and 12 pupils and their families, and delighted to see high standards of teaching, learning and behaviour throughout the school. It was also great to open our Academy to prospective parents and pupils last night for our annual open evening. It was the busiest I have ever seen it with all three Principal talks “sold out” well in-advance of the evening. The school had a real “buzz” and it was excellent to see so many current pupils talking so confidently and articulately about community as well as staff who spoke so enthusiastically about their subjects and what we offer.

You may remember that we received a full Ofsted inspection shortly before the summer holidays. As reports are not published during the holidays, we have only just received our report which will be published next week on our website and Ofsted’s website. Rather than my usual newsletter and updates today, I felt it important to focus purely on this.

We are pleased to confirm that Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport continues to be a ‘Good’ school.

This was our first full inspection since 2016 and follows monitoring visits after the pandemic.

While the grading itself is an achievement, it is some of the positive comments in the report which truly demonstrate the unique and special ethos we have fostered at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, especially given the challenges that we, like all schools, have faced over the past three years.

The report celebrates that ‘pupils enjoy attending’ our school and that they ‘get on well with each other and develop strong friendships. They [Pupils] say that this is a school where being different is accepted as the norm.’

Parent voice was strong, with a particular highlight being that 90% of respondents said that their child has had access to taking part in clubs or activities at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport.

We urge you to read the full report, which is attached to this parentmail but we are particularly pleased by many of the comments, which include:

- “Leaders have made substantial strides in improving the quality of education at this school. This has helped them construct ambitious, clear plans which are improving the provision.”
- Pupils including those in the sixth form, follow a curriculum which is increasingly well adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. They learn how to revise and study independently. They meet a wide range of employers. Students in the sixth form also visit universities.”
- “Pupils are well prepared for the next stage in their education or employment.”
- “Pupils including those in the sixth form, follow a curriculum which is increasingly well adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. They learn how to revise and study independently. They meet a wide range of employers. Students in the sixth form also visit universities” and “Students in the sixth form enjoy studying [at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport]. The sixth form is inclusive and caring. Students are taught how to study effectively and organise themselves. If they find this difficult, they are supported to improve. They say that teachers are knowledgeable and challenge them in lessons to do their best.”

- “Leaders have developed an ambitious and broad curriculum for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The well thought out curriculum identifies the key knowledge that pupils need to learn.”
- “Most pupils behave well they treat adults with respect and approach their work maturely.”

In the report, the academy has been graded ‘Good’ in the quality of education, personal development, leadership and management and sixth-form provision.

However, behaviour and attitudes has been identified as an area requiring improvement. We are disappointed by this but given the challenges and disruption to learning over the last few years and the recent changes to Ofsted’s framework, we know this is a common challenge for schools in our region and across the country. We expected this area to be a focus of the inspection and have already begun to make improvements in this area which has been noted in the report.

We are pleased that it recognises the improvements to behaviour that are being made across the school, including changes to school policy and further training and support for staff. We know we are still early in this journey, but we and Ofsted are confident we have the right approach in place to address the small minority of pupils that do not meet our high standards and expectations.

We welcome this feedback from Ofsted, which we know will help us on our path towards our goal; to be an excellent school in everything that we do.

I would like to thank all our families for your support during the two-day visit. I am sure you will have read recent news stories about how inspections can be a difficult experience for members of staff, and we appreciate your understanding and compassion during this time. Thank you also to all those who provided feedback about our academy which was used as evidence to form inspectors’ judgements.

Over the next term, we will continue to work as hard as we possibly can for all our pupils so that their potential can be fulfilled, providing the platform they need to flourish in the future. It remains a pleasure to lead our unique academy as we move into the next phase of our development. The primary purpose of our school is not to ensure positive inspection outcomes but to provide the best opportunities and outcomes for the young people in our care. This will remain our driving motivation in everything we do.

In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, ‘The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams’.

Kind regards,

Duncan Roberts

Principal