



## Ofsted Report Available

The report from the latest monitoring visit is now available. The report again notes further improvement in the school generally and in the quality of teaching since the last visit. The headline judgements are:

Progress since special measures:	satisfactory
Progress since the previous visit:	satisfactory
Progress against our four targets:	
Achievement	satisfactory
Additional Support	satisfactory
Quality of teaching	satisfactory
Leadership	good

That the first two main judgements are both satisfactory means that we are still expected to come out of special measures in the summer term this year.

Three priorities for further improvement are given:

- Redefine the essential elements of each lesson and ensure that they are consistently included by all staff in all subjects.
- Develop the use of paired and group work to assist pupils' learning.
- Re-assess the curriculum balance and content for the Key Stage 4 pupils who are not taking the full range of GCSEs and those who receive some of their teaching off-site.

These are all messages to continue doing what we are doing but with greater consistency. We have already held two staff training sessions on these issues and will adapt our development work with departments accordingly.

I am extremely pleased with the report, especially the recognition that we have made further progress since the previous visit. More details of what the inspectors said appear overleaf and the full report is available from the Ofsted website, a link to which is on our own website.

## Youth Forum

A meeting was held just before half term at which our students could share their views about their community. The attendance at this meeting was very good and I was delighted to hear that there was praise for the way our students approached this opportunity. Again our students have proved themselves a credit to the school: well done and thank you to those who were involved in this event.

*Sean Hayes*

## Youth Forum

As Mr Hayes has already mentioned, the first Youth Forum was held on Thursday 22 October. The meeting proved to be a fantastic success and the number of SJF pupils that attended was superb, putting other meetings held at other venues to shame!

I was extremely proud, not only of the numbers that attended but of the constructive and mature attitude all students showed at the meeting.

Many issues were discussed that affect young people and the communities in which they live. Two actions were agreed for the local police and City Council to act upon. These were:

- Queensgate - to pass on concerns and gain feedback regarding the "youth policy" in the centre and the inconsistent way it is carried out.
- A list is to be prepared with all the activities available for young people in the East of the City.

Once again I would like to thank all that attended and will update on the actions as soon as possible. The next meeting will take place in January.

*PCSO Reid*

## Caffeinated drinks

We are concerned that students are coming into school with cans of coke and energy drinks that contain significant quantities of caffeine. We would ask that parents do not provide students with drinks of this type and that students are encouraged not to buy them on their way to school. If these drinks are seen in school they will be confiscated. Consuming large quantities of caffeine has a detrimental impact on students' concentration, learning and behaviour and does not fit in with our desire to achieve "Healthy Schools" status. Thank you for your support in this.

## Inclusion Drop – In

On Thursday 19 November there will be an Inclusion Drop-in from 3.30–4.30. Parents of students with Special Educational Needs or English as an Additional Language are welcome to come and see Miss Wilson to ask any questions they may have or briefly discuss their child's progress.

## Lunchtime Detentions

Each day we run a lunchtime detention for students who arrived late or whose uniform is not correct. A record is kept and regular names are drawn to parents' attention. This helps us ensure that the correct uniform is worn and reinforces the message that punctuality is important – as it will be in the workplace in later life.

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## Ofsted Monitoring Visit – Main Points

The text of the report comments on the following:

- Significantly improved GCSE results with all school targets met. More students should be making 'expected progress' during Key Stage 4 though. *"...overall these much improved GCSE results indicate the effectiveness of the strategies which the school put in place over the last academic year with this year group to accelerate their progress and to address the gaps in their previous learning."*
  - Extensive analysis of results has been done and suitable targets set for students. Inspectors say that there is an awareness that teachers' assessments need to be moderated. Assessment Data is now much improved and more available to teachers. *"The extensive data which senior leaders and staff hold on each year group enables them to identify quickly where underachievement remains and to tackle it systematically."*
  - Satisfactory progress was being made in the lessons observed. Inconsistencies were noted between lessons where teaching was good and where it was satisfactory. *"Some teachers are making a concerted effort to develop pupils' learning skills, such as their ability to work in groups, to discuss, to research and to motivate themselves. In lessons where these techniques were used this had a positive impact on pupils' progress."*
  - Behaviour in and outside lessons remains satisfactory and was good or outstanding in effective lessons. *"Pupils are considerate of one another, and are friendly and courteous to adults and visitors. They appreciate greatly the facilities of the new premises and continue to treat them with respect."*
  - Attendance is in line with national averages and there are fewer persistent absentees, although there is variation between year groups. *"Student support officers continue to provide effective pastoral care for pupils, and the police community officer is increasingly effective in supporting the development of positive attitudes within the school and the community"*
  - We are praised for increasing opportunities for students to take on responsibility (the theme of assemblies this week) and the reading buddies scheme is also praised: *"This is a well organised and well managed scheme, to which both younger and older pupils are responding very well."*
  - Inspectors saw more good teaching on this visit and in a range of subjects but would like to see more consistency in the planning of lessons and especially in the way that the available data is used. They also say that marking could still be better. *"Consequently, the clear contrast between lessons where there is good teaching and those where teaching is satisfactory remains as reported in the previous monitoring letter."*
  - There is much praise for the changes that have been introduced to the Sixth Form. *"This is a result of the new dynamic leadership, the establishment of a secure baseline for improvement, and the clear vision for the future direction of the sixth form."* Inspectors also comment on the improved curriculum, better tutorial arrangements and improved assessment. *"Sixth form students comment that they feel well prepared for the next stages of their education."*
  - Further improvements in provision for SEN and EAL students are acknowledged: *"The school now has effective strategies for identifying individual pupils' additional learning needs and clear and helpful advice is provided to teachers on how they can best support individual pupils in lessons."*
  - The significant changes that we have made to the monitoring systems in school, to the assessment processes and to our mentoring and tutorial systems are all recognised as changes for the better. *"Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of most aspects of the school's work is much improved and significantly more systematic."*
  - The work of the IEB and Local Authority in supporting the school is again judged to be good and effective.
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### Red Nose Day 2009

We have received a thank you 'nose' from Comic Relief for the £300 that we raised for the charity in March. This is displayed student services. Well done and thank you to all the students who took part.

### Parent Champion

Father David will be available to see parents on Wednesday 11 November at 3.30 pm. Fr David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733 562528 ext 5, or by email at [frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com](mailto:frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com)

### HPV vaccinations

HPV vaccinations take place on Thursday 12 November. There will be the second injection of two for most students and the opportunity for girls who missed out last time to get their first injection.

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