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20th March 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I am delighted to share the Ofsted report following their visit on 7th and 8th February 2023. Having been given the provisional judgment 5 weeks ago and receiving the draft report just last week, I could not be happier to finally be able to share the news.

Ofsted have judged Armfield Academy to be a 'Good' school in all areas.

As you will be aware from national reports and previous communications, Ofsted have made considerable changes to the inspection framework and made overall judgements an even more exacting standard: see link below

[Armfield Academy Ofsted Report](#)

The Ofsted Inspectors were incredibly thorough and were being observed by one of His Majesty's Inspectors as part of a quality assurance exercise. Across the two days they observed over 30 lessons/tutor sessions, spoke to multiple groups of pupils from across all phases of the school, in both primary and secondary; they observed breaks, lunchtimes, lesson change-overs; arrivals and departures from school; they spoke to the Trust, the Governors and multiple groups of staff. They reviewed hundreds of pages of evidence, pupil work and the school website, they took surveys from staff, parents and pupils. It certainly felt like a thorough review of the school.

It was a real privilege to be able to observe the Inspector's team meetings (*as is standard practice*) and hear what they had to say about our pupil and school and that this has been fully reflected in their final report. To be judged 'Good' in all areas is a huge tribute to the whole school community.

I would like to thank former Executive Headteacher Mr Lickiss. Mr Lickiss retired at the end of last academic year; as parents and carers are aware Mr Lickiss was an instrumental figure in the initial development of our new all-through school prior to opening in 2018. The Fylde Coast Academy Trust and Governing body have all played a part in supporting Armfield in its journey to this 'Good' judgement.

I would also like to thank our families; it is absolutely the case that a school needs the support of its community and we are extremely lucky to have a parent/carers body that values education and supports the school in so many ways. Your kind comments and support via the survey were repeatedly commented upon.

The staff were, and are, simply amazing. I am fortunate to be able to complete regular learning walks around the school and I know that, regardless of an inspection visit, the quality of what is delivered right across the school is of a high standard. An inspection is intense and I have no doubt has caused stress and anxiety as we have waited so long for our very first visit, but I could not wish for a group of more dedicated and professional staff. The majority





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of the report comments on what they have been able to achieve in delivering a highly ambitious curriculum, whilst maintaining a genuine focus on personal development and care for our pupils.

And lastly the pupils themselves. When I spoke to them in the assembly before the inspectors arrived, I reminded them that this is their school and their education and to be proud of what they were doing. Across the two days they were fantastic. They were honest with the inspectors both in what they enjoy and learn but also in how they engage in continually improving the school. The most gratifying feedback from the inspectors was hearing what the pupils had to say about school and what they were most proud of. We are certainly very proud of them!

I would also like to pay tribute to the late, great Jimmy Armfield, who our academy is named after. We have worked tirelessly over the last five years to embody the spirit, determination but above all the values that Jimmy practiced both on and off the pitch. His wish was that Armfield Academy would become an academy where all young people can succeed and have every opportunity to find their own path in whatever direction they wish to take. Jimmy would be rightly proud and I would like to thank the Armfield family who are closely linked to the school for their continual support.

As I hope is typical, we won't rest on our laurels, we know there are things that we would like to develop and that running a school means we always strive to do better. But, for a day or two, our whole school community should take a moment to pause and reflect on these achievements and the generous words of the Ofsted report. My warmest congratulations to all.

With thanks and very best wishes,

Yours in Partnership,

Mr M Kilmurray, Headteacher