

7 March 2024



Headteacher:
Mr R J King BSc

Dear Parents and Carers

Following my letter of 6 February, notifying you that Ofsted were inspecting Cockermouth School on 7 and 8 of February 2024, I am delighted to be able to report that the inspection was an incredibly positive experience for our school.

As a high performing school previously graded good, Ofsted carried out an ungraded inspection. Ofsted do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection, therefore a change of grade is not possible following an ungraded inspection. Instead, Ofsted look to confirm whether a school remains good and publish a report of their findings.

As a result of our inspection, Cockermouth School continues to be a good school. The inspection report is now available on our school website and can be viewed by following this [link](#). As a result of this successful outcome, we would expect our next inspection to be around March 2028.

As ungraded inspection reports are fairly brief in nature, I would like to expand on a few themes that came out of the inspection process to give a flavour of what the inspectors saw through the lens of our school values.

Aspire: Aspiration for us is all about ensuring that each individual pupil gets the most that they can out of the whole educational experience provided by the school. The report highlights that '*The school have designed an ambitious suite of subject curriculums*' and that '*Pupils in Years 11 and 13 move on to meaningful destinations*'. In addition, the inspection team also acknowledged the outstanding academic achievement and progress that pupils of **all** abilities make because of the experiences they are provided with in their time at our school, and the impressive ambition that the school has for all of our students to achieve as well as they possibly can.

Enjoy: We welcome visitors into our school all the time and, almost without exception, they will comment on the warm welcome they receive and the enthusiasm seen from staff and students. The report highlights that '*Pupils are happy and extend a warm welcome to new arrivals*' '*Pupils demonstrate positive attitudes towards their learning*' and that '*Pupils enjoy an impressive range of activities that make a strong contribution to the development of their talents and interests*'. It was a real pleasure throughout the inspection to be able to showcase all of curriculum and extra-curricular activities that support our ambitious curriculum. However, inspectors also saw students and staff enjoying lessons and got a really good insight into the enjoyment of learning in the classroom that we see every day.

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Include and Respect: Cockermouth School prides itself on being a truly comprehensive school where individuals are valued and respected. It is especially important to us that all members of our school community live this value and we were not surprised that inspectors noted that *'The school has established a culture where everyone is valued and included'*, *'The school accurately identifies the additional needs of pupils and enable them to learn successfully alongside their peers'*, *'Pupils who benefit from the specially resourced facility flourish because of the expert help they receive'*. and that *'Pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), make a significant contribution to the calm atmosphere that exists in the school'*.

During the inspection inspectors spent a lot of time observing our students in lessons and at social time, as well as speaking to students about their experience of school, reporting that *'Pupils are polite and respectful, they value the relationships they have with staff'*. Ofsted visited many lessons, in five different subjects, for a detailed look at the quality of education and observed no behaviour that had a negative impact on learning.

Community: As a comprehensive school in the heart of its community, we constantly challenge students to make a positive contribution, both in and outside of the school gates. The inspection team could clearly see the importance of community in our school culture, noting that *'Pupils relish the opportunities that they have to take on leadership roles'* and that *Students in the Sixth Form act as excellent role models for their younger peers'*.

In summary, this inspection was a very positive and helpful experience for the school. It has acted to confirm that students who attend Cockermouth School not only have an excellent educational provision, but are also in an environment where they are well supported within an established culture where everyone is valued and included.

Beyond this, we are always looking to how we can further improve on what we do. We have an ambitious school development plan and the inspection process has also helped to feed into our thinking about what we can do even better; as we continually strive to ensure what we do provides the most exceptional learning experience for all.

Please can I take this opportunity to thank all of the students, staff and Trustees of the school for the positive contribution they make to our school community every day, and parents and carers for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours sincerely



Mr R J King
Headteacher

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