

Southchurch High School praised after external review

8th June By Sophie England, Reporter

An external review has praised a school in Southend for making "rapid improvements" as part of its ongoing transformation.

Southchurch High School has received strong feedback from a Quality Assurance Review carried out by Challenge Partners. The review recognised the school's progress since previous inspections, noting the growing impact of leadership and a strengthening learning environment.

Inspectors described a school moving forward with "clear purpose and ambition", driven by leaders focused on raising standards. The findings also build on a recent positive Ofsted inspection which highlighted the "major turnaround" following effective action taken by leaders.

Senior leaders were commended for their vision and determination, with inspectors noting they are "right to be proud of their school's achievements but not complacent".

Headteacher Mrs Tracy Airoll said: "This report reflects the dedication, teamwork and ambition of our entire school community.

"We are incredibly proud of the progress made, but we remain firmly focused on continuing to improve outcomes and opportunities for all our students."

A key strength identified in the report was the consistency of teaching and learning, with structured lessons and high expectations helping pupils make stronger progress.

Staff were also praised for their commitment to professional development, leading to improvements in classroom practice and student outcomes.

Inspectors highlighted a strong culture of inclusion, describing the school as being "respected by all staff and students".

Positive relationships between staff and pupils were said to contribute to a calm and focused learning environment.

Support for disadvantaged students and those with additional needs was identified as another key strength, with targeted interventions improving engagement and confidence.

The report also emphasised the importance of a broad and ambitious curriculum, ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to succeed.

Feedback from students reflected the improvements, with one saying: "The difference in lessons and expectations this year has been really noticeable... it feels like a school that believes in us and wants us to succeed."

The review concluded that the school is on a strong upward trajectory, with solid foundations in place for continued progress in the years ahead.