



Our Ref: TKi/JEd

19 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing by way of an update with regards to the progress the school has made since it's last Ofsted report in May 2019. We are pleased to report that the positive progress we at the school believe has taken place, has been backed up by an external visit to the school.

In May 2019 our school was given an Ofsted rating of "Requires Improvement". In July, Miss King, Dr Coulson and I invited parents and carers to a "post Ofsted Action Plan" Forum. A number of parents asked how long it would be before Ofsted would visit again and how could they be confident that the school had put in place the measures needed to deliver the improvement necessary. Ofsted would normally return to a school after two years (although this is likely to be extended as Ofsted has paused inspections in response to the Coronavirus crisis). We said we would have an external and independent review in summer 2020 to assess our progress a year after the Ofsted report was published. We could not do this last term as the school was closed and so the visit was organised for 6th October 2020. I must stress this visit was not an Ofsted inspection.

The findings from the visit were pleasing and support our assessment of the school; that it has made significant progress over the last year and is on track to be judged 'good' when Ofsted resume inspections and come to inspect us.

Thirty lessons were observed and our visitors reported that the planning was effective, lessons gave students a chance to reflect on their learning, the beginnings of lessons were found to be strong, and crucially the relationships that underpin learning were supportive and strong. There are areas where they made helpful suggestions, in providing even more stretch for the most able and more scaffolding for the less able. There needs to be work in some subject areas to match the work in subject departments which have made the most progress with their latest schemes of work that set out sequences of learning in that subject.

The team looked at the behaviour of students. The students themselves reported feeling safe in school and in all parts of the school. They know who to go to if they feel worried or unhappy, and are pleased with the Covid measures. The students spoken to by the team reported that teaching is generally good, and they feel the new teachers have improved teaching. Students feel behaviour at social and changeover times is good and they are well supervised. While behaviour in class is generally good the team felt that the school could do more to address the impact that some students have which can cause learning to be lost. The students understand the behaviour system, and know what to do if they are bullied. Students said they felt it was rare and is well dealt with by the school. Older year groups are not keen on some aspects of uniform.

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Our visitors reported that leadership of the school is strong. Leaders know the students well and show a high level of concern for both staff and students. The leaders are passionate about the success of the school and its future. There is now stability in the governing body and it is well placed to support and challenge the leadership of the school.

Clearly we are pleased with the findings of the report. It does not for one minute suggest that there is not still work to be done at Sybil Andrews Academy. The key areas for us to work on are:

- Curriculum development
- Website improvement and overhaul
- Supporting lower ability students in the classroom with more scaffolding
- Better use of data

As a leadership team we feel that the report accurately describes our school. We feel that it reflects the progress the school has made from the last Ofsted inspection and validates our commitment to the students, staff and the wider community to ensure that Sybil Andrews Academy fulfils its potential and becomes a school that the community is proud of.

We will of course keep you posted on our progress and hope that you will not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We would like to hold a Parents' Forum as these have been a helpful contribution to our work with you on the schools' development.

The Parent Forum will be via Zoom on 24th November 2020, 6:30pm; please see details below:-

Topic: Parent Forum Sybil Andrews Academy

Time: Nov 24, 2020 06:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92354088055?pwd=UHDhRUG1UWIZhRVJhU3BTV0xoejlyZz09>

Meeting ID: 923 5408 8055

Passcode: 965169

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school. We are committed to ensuring our improvements make a positive difference to our school community.

With best wishes

Nick Froy
Executive
Headteacher

Trenica King
Headteacher

Paul Jay
Chair of Governors

Dr Tim Coulson
CEO Unity schools Partnership