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23 February 2015

Dear parents / carers / students

Ofsted Judgment: A Good School, on its way to Outstanding

Further to our recent Ofsted Inspection on the 5-6 February 2015, the governors are delighted to announce that Welling School was judged to be a **'Good school.'** It was judged to be 'Good' in every single category including the Sixth Form provision. This is against a backdrop of an increasingly demanding and challenging Ofsted framework.

The Inspection Team spoke very highly of our students citing their behaviour as 'good' both in lessons and in unstructured time, noting, 'they are polite to visitors and make them feel very welcome to the school.' This stems from our manners and respect programme. 'Staff and parents and carers commented favourably on students' behaviour and the consistency with which it is managed'.

Inspector's state that 'the school's work to keep the pupils safe and secure is good. Students say they feel safe, which is confirmed by staff and parents and carers'. The Inspection report also documents that 'Leaders effectively ensure that there is no discrimination. All students can participate in all the activities provided by the school.'

The Inspection report also details that the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is a strength of the school. 'The school's visual arts specialist status is clearly embedded throughout the school with displays of students' work.

The quality of teaching was judged to be Good. The inspection report notes 'there is a positive climate for learning, which is characterised by strong relationships in the classroom. Students are generally keen and eager to learn'. Staff were highlighted as '*ambitious* for the students and, as a result, students' aspirations are rising so that they leave the school well prepared to continue their education, training or employment.' Our transparent system of using our website to indicate homework set was described as 'effective' with students and their parents and carers commenting favourably on the quality of the work set.

The achievement of our students was deemed to be good in all groups including children who have special educational needs and students who speak English as an additional language. The report summarises that students achieve well in most subjects.

Leadership and Management of the school was judged to be Good at all levels. Governance is a 'real strength', with governors being fully involved in reviewing student performance and setting the school's priorities for improvement. The students' strength of Leadership was also commented on by the Inspectors noting that 'students take on leadership roles very effectively'.

The Inspection report also states that 'the curriculum is broad and balanced with a wide range of academic and extracurricular activities. The school is preparing students well for a life in modern Britain'. The schools communication and relationship with parents/carer was highlighted as a strength, stating that 'the school works well with parents and carers.

Our Sixth Form provision was judged to be Good, with teaching and leadership and management of the Sixth Form assessed as Good. The Inspection Team recorded that the 'curriculum prepares them (the students) well for the next stage of their education, employment or training. An increasing number of students leave school and go into higher education. Many of these students are the first of their families to go into higher education. Students are aspiring to study at the top universities in Britain. This is a realistic prospect and illustrates the work the school has done to raise their aspirations'. This is a significant judgement, not only for our current Sixth Form, but those students in Year 11 considering their next steps into a Sixth Form placement.

There is much to celebrate for the school. I am incredibly proud of the young people and their achievements which have been documented by the Inspection Report and the dedicated current / previous staff who have contributed to this outcome and who have worked hard for the children that they serve.

However, the Governors are not complacent and are highly ambitious for the school to continue its progress towards an Outstanding judgement. Work has already begun.

A copy of the full Ofsted report is attached and will be made public within five working days on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

With warm regards

Mrs Khanna
Headteacher