



# THE ARNEWOOD SCHOOL

*Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow*

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Dear parents/carers,

Following our recent visit from Ofsted I thought it would be of interest to give you some initial feedback regarding their findings. The official report will not be published for a few weeks but there were a few specific issues raised that I wanted to celebrate, and a couple of areas I wish to address immediately.

## **Sixth form provision and safeguarding**

I was very pleased that Ofsted praised our sixth form provision. In particular, they felt that small classes led to positive and supportive relationships between teachers and students. Sixth form students were very positive about the experience they have at Arnewood. Lessons were seen to be challenging and academic language was thought to be developed well.

In addition, our safeguarding of students was said to be effective. Ofsted felt we offered a high level of support given the resources that we have available to us and the challenges we face when dealing with stretched outside agencies at the moment.

## **Low level disruption to learning**

It is my view that all students have the right to learn in a peaceful and predictable environment. I was disappointed to hear that parents, pupils and inspectors felt that too many lessons are disturbed by low level disruption such as: calling out, lateness or failure to follow instructions. Whilst there were many lessons where this was not the case, this is clearly an issue that we must address with some urgency.

Our new approach to managing behaviour was praised, as was our new policy (to be published later this year) and there were lots of examples of lessons undisturbed by the above.

## **Safety on site (toilets and corridors)**

I was not surprised to hear that toilets were raised as an area that students did not feel comfortable in. As a result, I have commissioned plans for extensive physical changes to the toilets in the main building and the Year 7/8 toilets in the languages area. This will enable supervision to be much easier and for perpetrators of vandalism to be easily identified. These proposals will be discussed with the governing body this term and building work will commence in time for the start of next term.

In the short term we will also be restricting the use of toilets during lesson time to emergency use only and we will continue to provide supervision of toilets during break and lunchtime.

In relation to the corridors, we are looking at returning to a one-way system within buildings (as was the case during covid) to ensure a safe and smooth flow of students around the school. This will be introduced in phases and communicated to students clearly before the next stage.



## **Team Arnewood**

I remain very proud to be the Headteacher at Arnewood and I am convinced that, together, the community that we have around us can achieve great things. The above is a reminder that we must keep change and development at the forefront of our minds and improve the student experience at our school. I am committed to building a brilliant school that the community is proud to support. The next parent forum is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April** at 5.30pm where we will show the results of the Ofsted parent survey and invite discussion on the issues that were raised.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anderson', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Anderson  
Headteacher