

25 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Mascalls - A Good school with outstanding features

We would like to share with you the results of the short Ofsted inspection that was carried out on 2 November 2016.

The lead inspector agreed with the academy's own judgement that Mascalls is a 'Good' school with 'Outstanding' Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare and 'Outstanding' Leadership and Management.

Highlights from the report include comments such as:

- "Ambitious leadership has established an ethos where staff are committed to driving standards up. Clear expectations have resulted in a discernible change to the culture of the school"
- "Teachers and support staff feel valued"
- "Mascalls is a happy place to be. Staff expectations for behaviour and learning are consistently high"
- "Expertise from across the Leigh Academies Trust helps to validate the assessments staff make about pupils' progress. Staff know pupils' well, and understand their needs and their next steps for learning"
- "Pupils report that they feel safe at school, and staff help them if they have any difficulties or concerns. Parents also support that view"

We are delighted with the findings of the inspection. This report validates the commitment of our staff, pupils and parents. To know that we are just a whisker away from an 'Outstanding' judgment, under the rigour of a far more demanding framework is extremely encouraging. My team and I set out to develop an ethos where students are happy and value their education, where challenge, standards and expectations are high and where every pupil matters. To have this recognised by HMI inspectors is a real boost for all at Mascalls Academy.

Inspectors made special mention of the positive relationship between teachers and pupils and the overt culture of safeguarding and pupil welfare. They were very impressed by governors and senior leadership's awareness of the key areas of improvement that will take Mascalls to 'Outstanding'.

The report also noted that being a part of Leigh Academies Trust has accelerated our progress and development. Working in a self-improving school structure has been invaluable in getting to where we are today.

Stuart Reeves, Executive Director of Leigh Academies Trust Central Kent Region and former Principal at Mascalls added, 'We are all delighted with the positive outcome of the inspection and it confirms that Mascalls Academy is a great place to learn. I am so pleased for the staff and the senior team who have worked so hard to provide such a wonderful learning environment for the pupils it serves'.

Yours sincerely



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