



13 October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you today to update you with some very exciting news. As you may know, Ofsted inspectors visited our school last month, and we have today heard that we have been rated “Good” in every category.

This is a fantastic achievement for everyone connected with the school – our wonderful and talented students, our hard-working and dedicated staff, and of course you as parents, who have provided such support. The journey of improvement we have been on since our school became The Victory Academy just over two years ago has been remarkable, and has only been possible because of everyone’s efforts. Thank you.

As you know, when the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) agreed to take on what was then The Bishop of Rochester Academy (BORA), the school’s results were disappointing and the school was rated Requires Improvement by Ofsted. We are so proud to have turned around the school. Applications for places are continuing to increase, this year’s GCSE results were our best ever, and yesterday we were ranked by the Government as the best non-selective school in Medway.

These marked improvements have come as a result of significant changes we have made at the Academy, which the Ofsted report highlights. In particular, we have been praised for the “positive ethos” and “culture of learning and ambition” at our school, as well as our rapid improvement since joining TSAT, leading to a higher quality of teaching and to student achievement rising. TSAT is also praised for providing “strong leadership and effective support” and providing opportunities to collaborate with other schools in the trust.

Some of the key findings in the report are:

- Achievement has risen over the last three years, and “since joining TSAT”, the school has “improved rapidly”.
- The rate of pupils’ progress has “increased markedly”, leading to “higher outcomes”.
- Staff and pupils are proud of the school.
- “Strong relationships” between staff and pupils “help pupils feel secure” and “promote their personal development well”.
- Staff are “hard-working” and “committed to ensuring pupils thrive, feel safe and achieve well”.
- The learning environment “provides a secure and stimulating place for pupils to learn and develop”.
- There are “strong links” in place with other secondary schools in the trust.
- Safeguarding is a “real strength” of the school.
- “Effective leadership of teaching” in the sixth form ensures that students “achieve well”.
- The school is “ambitious” for its pupils, making frequent checks on their progress, and “effective interventions” are in place for those who need extra help to catch up.
- The school’s particular strengths in art, performing arts and design technology “inspire and motivate pupils”.



ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE

www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

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Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH LLE

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The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is c/o The Rochester Grammar School, Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3BY. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



Yesterday's GCSE tables further underline our continued upward trajectory. We were ranked as the best non-selective school in Medway with "above average" progress achieved by our students. Put into context, it means that the education we provide adds on average almost a third of a GCSE grade per student more than expected. The score for our students who receive free school meals was even higher.

You will be pleased to know, however, that we will not rest on our laurels. We want to continue improving and our ambition is that we become "Outstanding". You can read the full Ofsted report here: <https://www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/The-Victory-Academy-10032903-Ofsted-Report-PDF-Final.pdf>

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any aspect of school life, please of course do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely,

Mandy Gage
Principal
The Victory Academy



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