



Headteacher: Mr Grant Mottram
Wimblestraw Road
Berinsfield
Wallingford
Oxon OX10 7LZ
Tel: 01865 340420
Email: office@abbeywoodsacademy.oxon.sch.uk
Website: www.abbeywoodsacademy.oxon.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to be able to share with you the findings of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on the 23rd and 24th May 2017.

The wonderful news is that Abbey Woods Academy no longer requires Special Measures! The inspectors were really impressed with our pupils and recognised that staff have worked extremely hard over the past 24 months since the last full Ofsted inspection.

The report clearly acknowledges how much has been done to improve the school, as well as the work required to move Abbey Woods on to 'Good'. We are reassured by the fact that the report confirms our own judgements about our current performance, and what needs to be done to improve even further. Key points from the report are that:

- Teachers' expectations of pupils have risen considerably during the current academic year. They now have generally high expectations and pupils are rising well to this challenge with increasing enthusiasm.
- Pupils are industrious and mostly work hard, which makes an important contribution to their accelerating progress. They usually feel well challenged, including the most able, and have positive attitudes towards learning from their mistakes. The quality of presentation in pupils' written work, including disadvantaged pupils, has improved markedly. They take pride in what they produce.
- Rigorous and systematic pre-employment checks help to confirm the suitability of all adults to work with children. Regular quality assurance by governors and the trust ensure that all of these procedures are tight. Recently strengthened induction and training procedures ensure that staff have the relevant knowledge and understanding to carry out their different roles.

I am sure you will agree this is great progress for Abbey Woods, and I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. With continued effort from the teachers and pupils, and with support from parents, we very much hope that the school will be judged 'Good' at its next inspection. The report will be published on Ofsted's website on 10th June. It will also be available to read on the school website, and if you would like a hard copy, please request one from the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Grant Mottram
Headteacher

Letter from CST Regional Director, Mrs Karen Walker

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school has had many, many years of not being good enough. This meant that children left the school poorly equipped for secondary school. So, we are all delighted that for the first time in more than six years, and unofficially longer, the school is no longer judged to be inadequate. This is a wonderful achievement, and one of which everyone is rightly proud. A big 'congratulations' must go to Mr Mottram and his incredibly hard-working staff, who have worked so hard to make the school a better place for your children.

Congratulations must also go to your children - the inspection team were highly praising of all that they spoke to, saying that good manners, respect and a determination to work hard are now features across all year groups. You should be very proud of this - and I would like to thank you for all your support.

I am particularly pleased to learn that Ofsted think the school is now a safe place to be in every aspect - a big achievement - I know some of the decisions weren't always popular, such as the fencing, but we all agree that your children's safety comes higher than anything! I'd also like to thank our small group of governors - there are only three of them and they have worked incredibly hard - but we are now hoping to grow the team a little so if you would be interested in becoming a governor please contact me directly (kwalker@cfbt.com) and I will be in touch. It's a very rewarding role - you don't need to have any educational background, although you will probably remember your own school days! All you need is a little bit of time and a desire to help the school continue to improve.

The school isn't judged GOOD yet - but it really has come a very long way and that is our next goal. Tell your friends that this is a rapidly improving school and we would love to talk to anyone who is interested in seeing if there are spaces for more children to join us on our journey.

Mrs Karen Walker
Regional Director
CST Schools Trust