

Ofsted visit on 28 and 29 November 2023

The report acknowledges the significant strides made at the school since joining the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust in April 2022. While the pace of transformation has been substantial over the past year and a half, the report rightly points out that certain improvements require more time to fully embed before their impact is realised for all students. Despite the disappointment in receiving an overall rating of requires improvement, we, as a Trust and school, believe this assessment accurately reflects our ongoing journey toward excellence.

The feedback aligns with our self-assessment, affirming that we are targeting the right areas for improvement, with the ultimate goal of attaining at least a good rating from Ofsted.

We are particularly pleased that the report highlights many positive aspects of our school where our work to improve is clearly already paying off:

- **Sixth Form excellence:** The report states that our sixth form is **good**, citing delivery of an ambitious curriculum. Students are well supported both in lessons and in their applications for post-18 destinations. Applied courses, especially in the sciences, are highlighted as a particular strength, with positive links established with Birmingham City University.
- **Improved behaviour and attitudes:** The report notes that behaviour and attitudes are **good**, with students, staff, and parents recognising positive changes since we joined the Trust. The atmosphere is described as “calm” and students as “happy” and “well-mannered”, which contributes to a conducive learning environment.
- **High attendance rates:** The high attendance rates at the UTC are praised and credited to systematic strategies addressing attendance challenges and fostering successful connections with families to promote consistent attendance.
- **Ambitious curriculum and expectations:** Leaders' high expectations for students' achievements are acknowledged, with the cross-curricular key stage 3 Literacy for Life curriculum providing ambitious learning opportunities. Key knowledge across subjects is mapped for students of all abilities.
- **Effective support for SEND students:** Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities have their needs accurately identified, showcasing the school's commitment to inclusivity.

We are already actively addressing the areas highlighted for improvement in the report. The inspection noted some inconsistencies in teaching across key stage 3, prompting us to take immediate action. We have recruited new staff in this area, and implemented a robust staff training programme, encompassing INSET, weekly twilight sessions, online learning, coaching, and mentoring provided through the Trust. Improvements are already evident in this regard.

Moreover, staff training has been focused on supporting the needs of our SEND students and those with low reading ages. To further enhance classroom support, we are in the process of appointing a Teaching Assistant. Despite past challenges with staff turnover, our current team is highly dedicated, driving improvements that foster a sense of belonging among both staff and students. This shared commitment is propelling our culture of high expectations, providing a solid foundation for future success.

Overall, in the 18 months since joining the Trust, we're pleased with the progress achieved. The positive outcomes highlighted in the recent Ofsted report affirm our commitment to continuous improvement. Moving forward, our dedicated team remains focused on enhancing the

educational experience, supported by the collaborative efforts of parents and the wider community.