



Positive Result for Ivanhoe in Safeguarding Ofsted Inspection - November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we recently had a one day inspection from Ofsted. We were pleased to welcome two inspectors to Ivanhoe to show them the many strengths of our school. During the day, inspectors met with staff, students and governors and looked at a range of policies and procedures we use.

The inspection was not a full inspection but one of the new ways that Ofsted is working to inspect different aspects of a school's works and was described as a 'no formal designation' inspection with a focus on safeguarding. Because we had very little notice of the inspection, the inspectors saw our work on a typical day and were very impressed with our students' attitudes and behaviour and the positive and caring environment in the school.

The final report is an extremely positive endorsement of the way that we work to keep our students safe and we have included the main findings in this newsletter. You can also read the full report on our website by clicking [here](#).

I am very proud of our staff and students at Ivanhoe College and that safety and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We are also very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and committed Governing Body who support us in this work. This inspection confirmed that our priorities are right and, whenever problems arise involving our students, that we are highly effective in dealing with them.

We are not complacent however and know that a wide range of issues can cause concern for students and parents from time to time. Our staff will always make time to respond to any concerns you raise so please remember get in touch at the earliest stage of any problem so that we can work with you to resolve it

Yours sincerely,

Anne-Marie Blewitt

Principal.

100% of Year 7 parents agreed, or agreed strongly with the statements..

'My child is well looked after at this school' and

'I would recommend this school to another parent.'



What the report says about staff and safeguarding.

The inspector said that **'Leaders, managers and staff at all levels work hard and effectively to ensure that students are safe'** due to **'high quality, comprehensive and regular training'**.

Staff are **'very well informed about their responsibilities to keep students safe from harm....They are tenacious in ensuring that any concerns they raised are followed up quickly and effectively.'**



Student Feedback

During the investigation process 20 students were directly interviewed, as well as being observed between lessons and at breaks around the school. A range of lessons were also visited.

'All groups of students interviewed reported high levels of satisfaction with the academy's work to keep them safe.' **'All students reported how the academy provides a welcoming environment for all, regardless of individual differences.'**

Our Year 7 students were **'highly complementary about the quality of transition arrangements'**. The report said that this quote **'typifies the views of others'.... 'everyone was really kind and welcoming.'** They also reported **how older students provided support'**.

'During the inspection, students reported that bullying is rare and dealt with very effectively whenever it occurs'.

The report particularly mentions **'the quality of care and support provided by Student Support Staff is an extremely strong feature of the academy's work to keep students safe'**, and **'students particularly value the support provided by the student support team.'**

There was a strong sense that students know where to go for help and advice if they have worries or concerns and that **'action is quickly taken to address their concerns.'**

The report highlighted the decision to show the 'Chelsea's Choice' production as just one example of how through our life skills programme we **'provide comprehensive coverage of all potential risks to students' wellbeing'**, and students said it **'had strengthened their understanding of how to protect themselves from harm.'**

About our policies.

The academy's safeguarding arrangements meet all requirements set out by Ofsted.

The report says that all policies and procedures are **'clear and well understood by staff and students'**.

Following a full review into behaviour and bullying, by school, at the start of this term, the report highlighted that **'policies and practice have been strengthened further to ensure all students are protected from bullying at all times.'**

The report also praised the school's 'Beyond Bullying' accreditation, in recognition of **'effective policies and practice to protect students from bullying.'**

'Governor's are extremely well informed about their legal duties and hold senior staff to account very robustly to ensure that students are safe.'

What's next?

At Ivanhoe we always strive to improve our outcomes for young people, and modify our practices accordingly. Moving forward it has been recommended that we **'strengthen strategies to eliminate students' occasional use of derogatory language towards one another'**. This is something that we will educate our students about through form time and our life skills programme.

In addition it has been suggested that we **'build parental confidence in the school's procedures'** in regards to the schools approach to preventing and tackling bullying. We hope that this positive report from Ofsted will go some way to reassuring parents that we are doing everything to protect the students in our care from bullying, by educating and guiding our students to make positive behaviour choices and supporting students when incidents occasionally arise, but we would welcome any further feedback and questions from parents.