Biddick Lane Washington Tyne & Wear NE38 8AL

Tel: 0191 511 1600 Fax: 0191 417 2897

> Headteacher: Miss K Morris



26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have now received a final copy of our Ofsted report following the inspection that took place in November 2021.

We are delighted to share with parents and carers that inspectors judged that **Biddick Academy is now a 'Good' school**.

Inspectors recognised the significant improvements made across the Academy since consecutive requiring improvement judgements in 2018 and 2016.

We have worked exceptionally hard to ensure the curriculum is broad and ambitious and it was wonderful for the inspection team to note that 'teachers have high expectations of pupils' and the 'curriculum is planned and delivered well'. Furthermore, after such a disrupted period over the last two years, the inspection team noted that 'leaders have considered gaps in pupils' learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and have adapted the curriculum accordingly. This is helping pupils to catch up on any missed learning'.

We are a community school and we strive to make every pupil feel part of everything we do, inspectors were impressed with the provision for pupils with special educational needs, commenting that pupils who attend the Unity Centre are 'involved in the full life of the school' and 'pupils with SEND are well supported in lessons'.

One of our priorities has been to inspire pupils to be ambitious in their next steps post-16, this was recognised in the 'strong careers programme' which has led to 'a significant increase in the number of pupils who stay in education, employment or training after Year 11'. The personal development curriculum is 'comprehensive' and teaches pupils how to 'understand the risks they may face on and offline'. With reference to safeguarding, inspectors commented that 'the arrangements for safeguarding are effective' and 'leaders ensure that they work proactively with outside agencies to provide help and support'.

Inspectors highlighted the 'high expectations leaders have of pupils' behaviour' and 'that the school's approach is improving pupils' behaviour'. We look forward, now that we are coming out of the pandemic, to more settled times, where we can build upon the 'positive attitudes to learning' demonstrated by so many pupils.

The report is available on the Academy website <a href="https://biddickacademy.com/academy-info/ofsted/">https://biddickacademy.com/academy-info/ofsted/</a> and will be published on the Ofsted website on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Everyone at Biddick Academy is passionate about creating an outstanding school that our pupils and the community so richly deserve. I am grateful to the staff, students and parents/carers who have supported us over these last few years. Your support, dedication and willingness to embrace change, are the foundations for the improvements we have achieved.

With your continued support, we look forward to the Academy continuing on its strong upward trajectory, as we work towards becoming an exceptional academy. We pledge to continue to help all our students fulfil their potential and to inspire the wider community.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K. Morris

Headteacher

Mr M. Cowley

Chair of the Trustee Board