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Thursday 21st January 2010

Dear All,

Ref: OFSTED

I am writing to you to inform you of the outcomes of our recent monitoring visit from OFSTED on 13th and 14th January 2010.

I am pleased to confirm the highest overall grade that OFSTED will award on a section 8 monitoring visit is a grade 2 which is 'Good' and we achieved that. We gained an Outstanding grade 1 for capacity to improve.

Headline: We are a good Academy, with outstanding capacity to improve.

- Feedback from the HMI Inspectors:
 - The Academy is "poised to accelerate" and has an "outstanding capacity" to do so
 - The Academy has achieved a lot in the 18 months since opening
 - The curriculum is "broad and tailored"
 - Business and Enterprise is imaginative and creative - this is a "real strength"
 - Students have positive attitudes to learning and opportunities, aspirations are high, which is a "transformation".
 - Students "enjoy school"
 - Students who met the inspectors were "excellent ambassadors for the Academy"
 - The systems on attendance are robust and comprehensive - a significant improvement has been shown
 - Teachers have very positive relationships with students
 - Behaviour in lessons is generally good and students respond well to high expectations - there is a slight issue with students outside of the classroom
 - Students are aware of the improvement in behaviour
 - Students recognise that bullying is low, and they feel safe. They are able to talk to staff, who are supportive.
 - They recognise the extensive opportunities with City University London; they appreciate this and have risen to the challenges this poses.
 - Student safety is of great concern to all staff. Staff are diligent about where students go when they leave the school.
 - The Academy are aware of student requirements and able to support by providing alternative accreditations, such as skillsforce.
 - The Academy is "driven by ambition" and has "galvanised the community". The partners are many and diverse and "too many to mention".

I think you will agree that the Academy is heading in the right direction. We should all be proud of the achievements of the Academy and it's students in the short time since the Academy has been open.

I, for one, am very proud of the students and staff here and the way in which they work together to ensure that our students do succeed at the Academy. Thank you also to our parents for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Ms Ann Palmer
Principal



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