

Dear Parents and Carers

As many of you will be aware, Henlow CE Academy received a short inspection by Ofsted in the final two weeks of the summer term. I thanked pupils in the end of year assembly for the positive way in which they engaged with the inspection process and I'd like to thank you for responding through ParentView helping the inspection team to see how we work in partnership with parents and carers.

I am pleased to report that the following line appears in bold in the opening paragraphs:

***'There is no change to the school's current overall grade of Good as a result of this inspection.'***

The inspectors spent one day at Henlow CE Academy and were able to recognise and appreciate our culture and the way in which we focus on the development of fully rounded individuals–

***'Pupils' behaviour is impeccable.'***

***'You have a clear set of values which steers the school community.'***

***'You and your team have created a safe culture where pupils can learn and socially interact well.'***

Inspiring pupils and encouraging a love of learning is central to life at Henlow CE Academy. The report highlights our broad curriculum, specialist teachers, challenging lessons and concludes that pupils leave well prepared for key stage 4 study in upper school:

***'The quality of teaching observed was strong. Pupils were challenged and expectations set by staff were consistently high.'***

***'Pupils have a positive attitude to learning.'***

***'The pupils have been taught the value of collaboration and support for each other and were spontaneous in their support for each other's learning. This was impressive and enabled many pupils to make greater progress in their lessons.'***

There is much to celebrate from the report and as we would expect, the inspector has identified some areas for improvement. The attainment of pupils at key Stage 2 in terms of pupils reaching the expected standards in their SATS is not directly referred to in the Ofsted report so I have added the table below showing that standards in reading and writing are above the national figure and standards in maths, reading and writing have all increased.

	<b>Henlow Academy 2016</b>	<b>Henlow Academy 2017</b>	<b>Henlow Academy 2018*</b>	<b>National 2018</b>
<b>Reading</b>	67%	78.2%	78.4%	75%
<b>Writing</b>	76%	78.2%	80.5%	78%
<b>Maths</b>	65%	71.7%	71.9%	76%

\*to be published in 2018 performance tables

The progress between Key Stage 1 (year 2 in lower school) and Key Stage 2 (year 6 in middle school) is a measure which the inspection report refers to regularly. This figure measures the progress a pupil makes throughout years 3 and 4 (when a pupil is in their lower school) and 5 and 6 (when a pupil is in middle school) and as such Ofsted themselves ask inspectors to be aware of this. (Across the country the majority of children are in the same school for their educational journey through reception to year 6.) Every pupil's progress between year 2 and year 6 is calculated and combined into one figure that is attributed to the school they attend in May of year 6. The national amount of progress is calculated by the DfE - the figure of 0 means that a child makes average progress. At the time of inspection 2017 progress data at Henlow CE Academy was as follows:

	<b>Henlow 2017 Progress</b>
Reading	-0.7
Writing	-1.9
Maths	-2.2

Whilst these figures suggest pupils made slightly less progress than expected, they are in line with or even better than the progress figures for schools in Central Beds as a whole and above the floor standards and 'coasting school' thresholds set by the DfE.

Three days after the inspection, 2018 results became available to schools and although the inspection team could not have considered this, I now include our most recent progress measures and those for disadvantaged pupils:

	<b>Henlow Academy 2018 Progress*</b>	<b>Henlow Academy Disadvantaged Pupils</b>
Reading	+0.4	+4.0
Writing	-1.7	-0.9
Maths	-1.4	+0.1

\*to be published in 2018 performance tables (subject to inclusion of late results)

Our progress data has improved in all areas and with regard to reading, pupils now make more progress than the national figure which includes pupils across the country mainly in primary schools. This data relates to the tests taken 2 months before the inspection and reflects improvements that were already underway; our internal data reflecting this was accurate rather than generous. For example, disadvantaged pupils made progress which the DfE regard as significantly above average.

At Henlow Academy we are always striving to make improvements and will continue to value every child's individual journey. The Ofsted report focuses almost exclusively on English and maths yet our key stage 2 science results for 2018 are 85% of pupils at Expected Standard compared to 82% nationally. We welcome and recognise some of the insight offered in the report and our development plan will address these priorities as we enter the next exciting phase of our development. I include the following bullet points as a summary:

- Lower school liaison is well-established and continues to flourish as we provide an hour's teaching in six schools every week of the year; an essential part of ensuring progress from year 2 to year 6.
- We are already working closely with our local Maths Hubs and one member of staff has gained nationally recognised accreditation through this partnership. She is now a Professional Development Lead for maths, focussing explicitly on improving Key Stage 2 outcomes in line with national standards.
- We measure progress throughout year 5 and 8 using GL which is a nationally validated data system. We will continue to develop this system to bring clarity across all year groups.

- Our training and development programme that Ofsted recognised the positive impact of on teaching will specifically focus on aspects of subject leadership.
- Ofsted comment positively on the well-developed strategy for improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and an explicit focus on their attendance is now in place.

Ofsted will inspect Henlow CE Academy at some point during the next 2 years and we welcome this two day inspection. The framework for inspections will have changed by September 2019 and you may have heard some of the discussions currently taking place regarding a possible new emphasis. I include the following quotation to illustrate this:

'In the new framework, we're thinking about how we can take the inspection conversation even further on education itself and less on data.'  
(Amanda Spielman Ofsted July 2018)

The full Ofsted report is available on our website. If you would like further clarification on any of the information given please email [info@henlowacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@henlowacademy.org.uk)

Yours faithfully



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