12th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide you with a short summary of our published Ofsted report. The inspection of our school took place in June 2022 and the report has just been published on the Ofsted website. The Ofsted report has been sent out electronically via your child’s My Child at School (MyCaS) account. Should you require a paper copy, please email stennison@springwater.n-yorks.sch.uk.

The Governors, staff and myself are delighted with the outcome of the two-day inspection which was rigorous and professionally challenging, as I am sure you would expect. As you will see in the report, due to the pupil numbers in the sixth form there is a separate judgement for this part of school as well as that for the main part of school.

From the early years to Year 11 (the main school) judgements for leadership and management, behaviour and attitudes, and the personal development of pupils were all Outstanding. The inspection team identified that there are high expectations with highly personalised support. They commented on pupils being fully included and that staff work closely with pupils to help them find ways to share their feelings and ideas. Personal development was described as exceptionally strong and arrangements for safeguarding effective. Their comments on the curriculum were, that leaders have successfully worked alongside subject leaders to develop the curriculum and that the quality of education has improved. The separate judgement for sixth form was also Outstanding and provision in the sixth form was described as excellent.

I am so pleased that they captured what myself and school leaders had already identified as the strengths of the school and its’ pupils. Those pupils who were at school on these days were a credit to you, and loved the opportunity to show off their work, to talk about their development or to demonstrate things within the classrooms. The inspector commented on how meeting them and being part of school life for two days had been an important and inspirational opportunity for her.

There is one judgement which is ‘good’ and this is the quality of education. We have, since our last inspection (December 2019) and during the whole of the school closure periods during the pandemic, worked tirelessly on developing and implementing a suitable curriculum designed to meet the very diverse needs of all of our learners and for this reason we are delighted that the hard work to develop and embed this new curriculum has been recognised. The inspector identified that, “the curriculum enables pupils with diverse needs to gain knowledge and skills across broad areas of learning” and that “the quality of education has improved”. We will continue to work on the key aspects which will develop the curriculum still further, and as you can see from the report the areas for development were, to “improve assessment methods to enable teachers to clearly identify what pupils can and cannot do.” and to “refine the curriculum for pupils so that it includes carefully chosen subject specific content”.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff, who work hard all the time, not just for inspection, and strive to deliver a high-quality curriculum and learning experience for your children every day. This takes resilience, dedication, compassion and commitment: they, and your children make the school amazing every day.

I hope that you enjoy reading the report in full, whether your child was at the school at the time, or indeed if you are a new parent. Please do you let me know your thoughts or feedback to staff at any time – we are interested to know what you think too.

I hope that it has been a positive start to the new school year for your child. It has been fabulous to see so many new faces, and familiar ones and the enthusiasm for returning!

Kind regards

*Sarah*

Sarah Edwards

Head teacher