

19 April 2011

Dear Year 12 Students, Parents & Carers

Just before we broke up for Easter, Ofsted conducted a two-day Inspection and I am delighted that we are now able to share the outcome and report with you. The full Ofsted Report is available on our website www.oasisacademy.coulsdon.org. I encourage you to read the report and take note of its findings. We will need the continuing support and partnership of parents to continue to progress and improve further still and look forward to you joining our partnership in September.

The overall judgements from the Inspection are:

Oasis Academy Coulsdon is a 'good' school and "is providing its students with a good quality of education. The school's capacity for sustained improvement is 'good'."

Student achievement and the extent to which they enjoy their learning; the extent to which they feel safe; and their behaviour, were all graded 'Good'. As were the quality of teaching and assessment; care, guidance and support. In total 24 out of the 27 judgements were 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

I was very pleased that the Inspectors acknowledged that ***"there is a committed team of staff who feel empowered to make improvements to the quality of provision"***. They agreed with our self-evaluation judgements entirely on areas for further development and improvement. I can assure you we are working hard on these already.

I know you will be reassured to note that the Inspectors found that ***"Teachers' subject knowledge is good and they have high expectations of the standards that students should reach"*** and just as important as you will be joining a new school, the Inspectors also found ***"the Academy is a caring environment in which students develop a clear sense of values and their behaviour is good"***.

A summary of the many highlights from the Report is attached and there is a plethora of 'good' judgements to read, but there is one comment in particular of which I am extremely proud and, which to me, encapsulates exactly what being part of our Oasis Academy Coulsdon Family is all about: students told the Inspectors that ***"the teachers never give up on us"***.

So whilst we are delighted to have made such 'good' progress since we opened in September 2008, our promise to you all is that we will 'never give up' and we will be "Outstanding", and a Centre of Excellence. We look forward to welcoming you to our Academy Family as we continue on our journey to success.

Yours sincerely



David Millar
Principal

Principal - Mr David Millar
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Highlights from Oasis Academy Coulsdon Ofsted Report Inspection conducted on 23-24 March 2011

(Carried out under Section 5 of the Education Act 2005)

19 April 2011

The overall judgements from the Inspection are:

Oasis Academy Coulsdon is a 'good' school and "is providing its students with a good quality of education. The school's capacity for sustained improvement is 'good'."

The Inspectors visited the Academy on 23rd and 24th March. They conducted lesson observations, held meetings with the Principal, staff, students, Academy Councillors and Parents. They scrutinised documents and checked safeguarding arrangements. Questionnaires were sent to Parents and Students and Inspectors analysed responses, investigated and verified feedback received. Inspectors graded the Academy 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in 24 out of the total of 27 judgements that they made.

Students told the Inspectors that they "**enjoyed being at the Academy and felt very safe**". They said that "**the teachers never give up on us.**" The Report confirms that the Academy's safeguarding procedures and practices were 'good' and praised the Academy for the care, guidance and support it gave to students.

"Students are well known to staff" and receive personalised attention through the pastoral systems, supporting both their well-being, and their academic and personal development. Students receive good spiritual, moral, social and cultural guidance and are well prepared for the next stage of their lives, making good progress in learning related to the world of work.

The Inspectors praised the students for their good behaviour and said "**they made an outstanding contribution to the wider community**". The Inspectors found the Academy to be "**inclusive and cohesive; providing a caring environment in which students develop a clear sense of values.**"

The Inspectors praised the Academy for the improvement in the number of students gaining 5 A*-C grades at GCSE which is now above the national average at 82% in 2010 (63% in 2009). Inspectors particularly acknowledged the '**dynamic leaders**' who have brought about significant improvements in English & Science results. The Inspectors were also pleased with the action taken by senior leaders to improve Mathematics and were impressed by the effective procedures, monitoring systems and intervention strategies put in place to improve Maths results. Having studied all the data and considered all strategies the Inspectors found that "**all groups of students make good progress.**"

The Academy was praised for its good curriculum which, the Inspectors said, is "**well suited to students' needs and interests**" and central to the successful improvements in students' progress and attitudes. "**Teachers' subject knowledge is good and they have high expectations of the standards that students should reach.**"

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Lessons were well-planned; students were given 'opportunities to shine' and make rapid gains in their learning. There were **"good relationships between teachers and students"** and students value the support they receive, particularly the extra opportunities provided outside of normal lessons. **"Staff are held firmly to account for the achievement of students"** and **"rigorous assessment and monitoring systems are in place."**

The Inspectors praised the **"strong leadership"** of the Principal and his clear vision for future of the Academy. Inspectors congratulated him on his highly successful style of management which has drawn together **"a team of committed staff who feel empowered to make improvements to the quality of provision."**

The Inspectors toured the new building currently under construction and were impressed by the carefully planned and thoughtfully managed way in which the Principal had ensured the involvement and safety of the whole Academy community in the planning process.

The Inspectors agreed with the areas for further development identified by the Academy in their self-evaluation form. In order to improve further the Academy should:

- Raise achievement, particularly in Mathematics
- Develop middle leaders' consistency and effectiveness in raising standards
- Improve rates of attendance and reduce levels of persistent absence.

The Academy has already put strategies in place and is acting on all recommendations.

"Students are well known to staff"

"All groups of students make good progress"

"Students' progress is good because of the good teaching they receive"

"Students value the support they receive from their teachers, particularly the extra opportunities that are provided outside normal lessons"

"All staff are held firmly accountable for the achievement of the students"

"good relationships are apparent between teachers and students"

Tasks are well matched to students' needs and precise questioning is used to challenge students' thinking and check their understanding"

"Students are well prepared for the next stages of their lives"