

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Ofsted Inspection Outcome**

#### **Spalding Academy is a Good School**

Following an Ofsted Inspection on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Mrs Lucy Conley, the Executive Headteacher of the South Lincolnshire Academies Trust is delighted to report that Ofsted has judged Spalding Academy to be a Good school.

Mrs Lucy Conley, Executive Headteacher comments, “The South Lincolnshire Academies Trust has been responsible for leading Spalding Academy since September 2016 and during this time there has been a great deal of work put in by the senior leadership team and staff in the school and across the Trust in order to improve the education for our young people. The Trust governance is strong and inspectors recognise that our Trustees are knowledgeable and dedicated, bringing a good balance of support and challenge. It is recognised that Spalding Academy has benefitted by working as part of the South Lincolnshire Academies Trust and the Good outcome for Spalding Academy is a tremendous achievement that the whole school community truly deserves. This report is fantastic news for the Spalding community and brings the official recognition that there is now a good non-selective school option for parents in the town. I would like to congratulate all of our pupils for the way in which they conducted themselves during the Inspection. The inspectors experienced first-hand pupils’ good behaviour, which has been highlighted as a ‘strength of the school’, the fact they are polite and welcoming and the pride they take in their school. This is something we are very proud of. I would like to also thank parents, for their continued support and contribution to the school and throughout the Inspection process. I am now very excited for the opportunity to continue to lead Spalding Academy as we aspire to be Outstanding.”

All areas have been judged as Good and the inspectors recognise that Spalding Academy has improved greatly over the past few years. Pupils are now learning well and making good progress. It has been highlighted that the school now benefits from the Executive Headteacher and other senior leaders providing clear direction and strong leadership, who have acted with determination to improve the quality of education that the school provides. It is also recognised that middle leadership is strong, which has strengthened the effectiveness of leadership and teaching further. Pupils work hard and know how to make progress in their learning. The progress pupils make across the curriculum has improved and is now good and is noted as being particularly strong in Key Stage 4.

School leaders have a strong vision for the curriculum, which is now Good and acknowledges pupils varied interests and skills, offering subjects leading to the full English Baccalaureate qualification or an alternative mixture of work related and academic subjects. The school has been praised by the changes to the option choices in Years 9 to 11 meaning more pupils follow courses that match their aptitudes, interests and the local career market, proving that we are a truly inclusive school.

Achievement is good, demonstrated by the 2018 GCSE results, with the end of KS4 progress score of +0.16, showing that pupils, especially the majority, who entered the school with average standards have made more progress than that seen nationally. This improvement trend is set to continue with the end of KS4 progress score forecast to be +0.26 in 2019.

“We are delighted the Inspection team also recognised that ‘Leaders have high aspirations for pupils’ achievement’ and that we have created a culture ‘built on shared values and the belief that all pupils can achieve well’. Progress at Spalding Academy has improved for all groups of pupils in the school, including disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND. Achievement has improved because the teaching is better in practically all subjects and pupil behaviour in the school has significantly improved. Pupils have now been recognised and commended by the inspection team for being polite, confident and self-assured.”

The inspectors were also extremely impressed with the quality of relationships between students and staff, and how well supported students feel. It is recognised that the wellbeing of pupils, both physically and emotionally, is a priority for the school and that pupils are proud to be at the school and want to do well, with relationships between staff and students being very strong. The inspection reports highlights that “the school is a positive and harmonious community”. All pupils feel safe and the report particularly highlights the supportive nature of the pastoral care, including provision for students with disabilities and special educational needs.

Mrs Lucy Conley adds, “We are very pleased that the Inspection team recognised that poor behaviour, including bullying, in the school is rare and that any poor behaviour is dealt with very effectively, there is a culture of strong highly visible pastoral support staff presence around school, with pupils knowing who to go to if they have concerns or worries. We know our pupils enjoy their learning and this has been witnessed by the inspectors, also that pupil high standards of behaviour supports learning. Inspectors make reference to pupils’ behaviour being a strength of the school, that pupils are polite and display good attitudes to learning. Pupils are supported with the good extra-curricular offering, providing an enriched pupil experience, which reflects the school’s ethos and motto of *Aspire, Challenge, Achieve*.”

Mr Will Hawkins (Chair of Governors) congratulated Executive Headteacher Mrs Lucy Conley, her senior team and all staff and students at the school. “This recognition from Ofsted is well deserved. Mrs Lucy Conley has shown great leadership qualities in securing this positive outcome and all staff, pupils, parents and governors can be rightly proud of Spalding Academy.’

Spalding Academy has an exciting future ahead and the school will be planning a celebration event for the pupils and teachers in the near future as a way of thanks to staff, governors and members of the school community for their continued support and contribution to Spalding Academy.