



Barry Herson,
Headteacher

We are delighted that after a very demanding inspection OFSTED agreed with our assessment of the school. The full report is enclosed with this newsletter and some highlights are reproduced below.

The success of the inspection and our best ever examination results are due to the wonderful young people we have the privilege to work with, the strongest staff the school has ever had and your support.

I would also like to thank EduAction and our specialist school sponsors, The Ogden Trust, The Jack Petchey Foundation and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust for their help and encouragement.

Best wishes,

Barry Herson

Brilliant OFSTED

“Heathcote School is a good school in which students make good progress and are well cared for. It has improved greatly since the last inspection under the outstanding leadership of the headteacher.”

“There are excellent procedures for safeguarding students. The good quality of care is a strength of the school. It ensures that all students with personal difficulties or who are falling behind receive special support and that no-one drops through the net.”

“Standards have risen substantially since the last inspection”



Achievement and standards

“Achievement is good and standards reached are broadly average, with some below average. Standards have risen substantially since the last inspection.”

Personal development and well-being

“Students' personal development and well-being are good. Students relate well to each other so that there is a friendly atmosphere when they talk or play in groups at breaks and lunchtimes. Their appreciation of the beliefs and values of others is good.”

Teaching and learning

“Teaching and learning are satisfactory. Teachers use praise successfully to help students stay focused. Students work diligently and classroom relationships are harmonious, although poor behaviour sometimes disrupts learning.”



Science



supporting individual excellence



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



Backing Young People!



Waltham Forest

Curriculum and other activities

“The quality of the curriculum is good.”

“A particular strength of the curriculum is the opportunity for all students to take some examinations in Year 10 and thus, in Year 11, benefit from a wider range of subjects, some for examination purposes and some not. This has had a marked impact on raising standards for students at risk of leaving education early.”

“Students enjoy a wide range of well-attended extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.”

Care, guidance and support

“The school's care for its students is good overall, with some areas of excellence. Staff take a close interest in the social and emotional needs of individual students, dealing swiftly and sensitively with issues as they arise.”

“Staff aim to ensure that no student falls through the net and persevere to the greatest possible extent to support students who face challenging circumstances or have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The school has reduced bullying by dealing effectively with it where it occurs and by informing students clearly about where to get help.”



Students and staff raise over £1,200 for Breast Cancer Care

Leadership and management

“Leadership and management are good. The leadership of the headteacher is outstanding. He has a very clear sense of direction that has underpinned the school's improvement, and has high expectations for the school's further development. He is given good support by senior leaders.”

“Staff share a keen desire for improvement.”

What the school should do to improve further:

- “Improve teaching through a sharper focus on challenging students to think and engaging them more actively in their learning.
- Raise standards overall and, in science, improve progress.
- Use assessment and targets more consistently to inform intervention and planning.
- Establish priorities for development, expressed clearly in terms of measurable impact.”

In addition to these priorities we are working on an exciting new curriculum to give our students access to a wider range of courses and better Post-16 opportunities.

Other News

I am delighted to inform you that the governors have promoted Mrs. Cozens to Associate Headteacher. This is in recognition of her exceptional contribution to the development of the school and her status as Headteacher while I am working part-time for EduAction on Building Schools for the Future this term and next.

“The quality of the curriculum is good.”

“Leadership and management are good.”

<http://heathcote.waltham-forest.lgfl.net>



The aim of Heathcote School & Science College is to provide an excellent education in a safe, supportive learning environment, where people are valued and make positive contributions to the school community and where students go on to become responsible, independent members of society.