

18 January 2023

Dear parent/carer,

A few weeks into term, I wanted to get in touch to share some positive news. Towards the end of last year, Thames Valley School was inspected by Ofsted, and I am pleased to confirm they judged the safeguarding, leadership and management of the school to be effective.

As you will see in Ofsted's letter [Thames Valley School - Ofsted Reports](#), inspectors made a number of positive comments about leadership at Thames Valley and praised the "useful extra expertise" being brought by Stacia Petterson, the trust's Executive Principal.

In other positive points, Ofsted:

- highlighted the changes underway to strengthen Thames Valley, including staff training on positive behaviour management, and to further assure the quality of provision in school.
- judged safeguarding arrangements fit for purpose, stating that pupils at Thames Valley School are safe and that their complex learning and behavioural needs are well understood.
- recognised the Trust's support and leadership for Thames Valley, which they reported is "helping to improve the rigour of school improvement planning and the pace of action being taken".
- noted the Trust's investment "to support the school's journey of improvement."

Ofsted's letter is a positive endorsement that Thames Valley School is on the right path towards realising our Trust-wide commitment to educational excellence for autistic children and young people.

Inspection reports for Church Lawton School and Vanguard School, which were also undertaken before Christmas, will be shared with you when released by Ofsted.

Key to us achieving this goal is the additional funding we have already been able to release to support our three schools. This has amounted to £1.2m, funding a whole range of specialist support including a new Autism Lead Practitioner in every school, bespoke speech and language support across all schools, trauma informed training and approaches which are beginning to roll out across all schools this term; and improvements to

training and CPD for staff at all levels so that they can do their very best work.

While the future looks bright, it is important to recognise that we are at an early stage in our journey. This is reflected in a Notice to Improve which we have received from the Department of Education, and is published on our [website](#). Though we have already made a number of changes to improve, we have more to do to rectify the legacy breaches of the Academy Trust Handbook, which governs all Multi Academy Trusts, that have been identified.

I appreciate that as a family of schools, we have undergone considerable change over the past few months and adjusting has not been easy for everyone in our community. I am very grateful for your patience and support as we implement the necessary changes.

I hope this positive endorsement from Ofsted will provide you with confidence that, while there is certainly more to do, we are making positive progress towards our ambition to establish each of our schools as beacons of best practice and hope for autistic children and young people.

Best wishes



Dr Nic Crossley
Chief Executive
Liberty Academy Trust