

Ofsted Inspection – March 2017

APRIL 25, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from the email sent on 31st March 2017, you will be aware that the Ofsted report from the inspection of Dartford Science and Technology College is now available. Ofsted published the report to the school just before we broke up for Easter and a copy was sent to you. It is available on our website ([link to DSTC-Ofsted-Report-March-2017.pdf](#)) and we wanted to write to you as soon as we could to expand our response to this great report.

We welcome the judgements and the challenge that Ofsted provided and they gave the school the following ratings:-

An overall effectiveness rating of GOOD with the individual section ratings as follows:-

- Effectiveness of leadership and management GOOD
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment GOOD
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare GOOD
- Outcomes for children and learners GOOD
- The effectiveness of the sixth form provision GOOD

The Lead Inspector highlighted that this was a much tougher test than when the school was last inspected and we are pleased with the outcome which we believe reflects the overall offer that DSTC is providing. Over the two days, the inspectors gave us a thorough examination – gathering evidence, speaking to students, staff, parents and governors as well as checking our safeguarding arrangements, internal processes and observing all aspects of school life. This included looking at pupil progress, teaching and learning, careers support, student voice and behaviour which we feel are strengths of the school.

The inspectors also felt that we could improve students' attendance – which we need your help to achieve – and that we needed to ensure all subjects stretched the most able, as they saw many subjects that already do, just not all. We have already started to work on these areas and will continue to do so until they are outstanding. We are also fully committed to being at the heart of the community in Dartford and know from the feedback we receive that visitors to the school have a positive experience. We have also have been able to slightly increase our admission numbers from 145 to 150 for September 2017 to ensure we can provide for more local students and to reflect the increasing demand for places at the school.

We recognise that the success of the school is down to a team effort, the work that is put in by the students, teachers and parents and carers. We simply cannot be successful without your help and your continued support for the school.

We are also not complacent and realise there is still more for us to do to further improve. It is gratifying to get this positive independent review of the school on our current performance and provide us with a few things to work on.

We aim to 'keep it good-make it great' and we are well set to do this now. As Ofsted says 'DSTC is a place where pupils achieve well and thrive'. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Anne Davis – Principal, Geoffrey Prout – Chair of Governors