

# Shirebrook Academy



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Ref: MVOApr24

15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Ofsted Monitoring Visit – April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to be able to share with you the report from our most recent Ofsted Monitoring Inspection, that took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

In December 2022, we wrote to you to share our Ofsted Inspection Report from a Section 5 inspection. At the time we communicated that whilst striving to be an 'Outstanding' school, we were judged to be 'Requires Improvement' which was expected given the Audit and Evaluation that the academy's new Leadership Team had conducted in the summer term of 2022.

When a school receives a judgement of Requires Improvement, the expectation is that they also receive a monitoring visit between inspections to check on progress. There are only two possible outcomes for a monitoring visit, which are:

**Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the school to become good.**

Or

[The school] continues to require improvement. Leaders have made insufficient progress to improve the school.

We are very pleased to communicate that the Lead Inspector that visited Shirebrook Academy judged that we were the former and that the academy had made significant progress in all areas that had been raised as improvement areas at the previous inspection.

We are proud of the hard work, commitment and dedication of all members of our academy community and the ways in which we are improving, with the support of our families and local area. The report is very positive about a variety of aspects of academy experience and the opportunities for students.

The report makes reference to how '*pupils with SEND are supported with their learning, attendance and behaviour by staff who are aware of all the necessary context*' and how the 'school has significantly improved the provision for pupils with SEND'. This shows our commitment to all of our students and the inclusivity of our academy and validates the action that we have taken since the previous inspection to improve the support and provision for all students including our children with SEND.



**All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.**

It is important to note that reading was also identified as an area of strength at our academy with staff checking *'precisely how well pupils can read'* and *'Those pupils who need extra help benefit from tailored support to meet their needs'*.

Significant emphasis has been placed on curriculum development and the improvement of the learning experiences of our students and this was seen during the lessons that the inspector visited. The report recognised the focus that had been placed on curriculum improvement, referencing how changes had led to *'ambitious and well sequenced lessons across subjects'*.

We have the highest ambitions and aspirations for our students and thank you for working in partnership with us in supporting our young people in having high standards and expectations for themselves and showing behaviours and attitudes that enable them and others to learn. The inspector noted that *'Pupils' behaviour has improved since the time of the previous inspection'* and during student voice discussions, students commented that they *'form strong, positive relationships with staff'*. This is a consequence of working together on our shared ethos and values and trying to ensure that everyone can learn in a safe and progressive educational environment. Everyone taking responsibility for their role and ensuring that they follow our shared ethos and values enables this; and trying to get the 'small things' right each and every day leads to individual and collective success. Excellent attendance is at the heart of educational achievement and success and the attendance of our students has improved over time. This is the result of the combined efforts of students, families and our academy and we want to see such collaboration and support of our young people grow.

At the time of the previous inspection, the communication to you referenced how 'Lasting change takes time' and the inspector during our recent monitoring visit felt that a *'long-term and sustainable approach to school improvement'* had been taken and that *'Actions are taken in a logical order to bring about improvement'*. We are ensuring that improvements at our academy are made in the best interests of our children in a way that will improve their educational experiences now and in the future and it is heartening to know that our efforts are validated.

For further information and details about our Ofsted monitoring feedback, please visit our website and click on the links, Our Academy and Ofsted - <https://www.shirebrookacademy.org/page/?title=Ofsted&pid=51>.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers that work with us constructively daily. Everyone's commitment makes a significant difference to our children, their learning and wellbeing.

If you have any questions regarding the monitoring visit or your child's education generally, please don't hesitate to make contact with us at [enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org).

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs Lindsey Burgin**  
**Principal**