

Our ref: DME/DKP

17 July 2019



Western Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 6HA

Tel: 01256 322691 • Fax: 01256 819756

Headteacher: Denis McCabe BSc(Hons) MA

E-mail: enquiries@aldworth.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.aldworth.hants.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

OFSTED INSPECTION 25-26 June 2019

We were recently visited for two days by an OFSTED Inspection team. In the short time that the four inspectors were at Aldworth they were able to identify many strengths which are reflected in the following comments made in the summary:

Following its restructure, the leadership team has grasped what needs to be done to improve the school. They have the capacity to make the required changes. Leaders are focusing on the right things.

Pupils are prepared for their next steps in education. They receive appropriate advice and guidance that helps prepare them to make positive decisions about their futures.

Middle leadership has been strengthened. Middle leaders have effective plans in place to drive improvements.

Pupils said they feel safe and well cared for. They understand how to keep themselves safe.

The curriculum is broad and balanced. Leaders consider pupils' needs and aspirations when deciding on provision.

The report has highlighted that the school has to do the following:

Improve the effectiveness of leadership and management, including governance.

Improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment so that pupils make good progress.

Improve the quality of pupils' personal development behaviour and welfare by eradicating low-level disruption in lessons.

As a consequence, these factors have resulted in an overall OFSTED rating of 'requires improvement'. This is a disappointing judgement, particularly as the framework for inspections changes again in September. However, it is essential that we fully understand and accept the key areas for improvement and maintain our focus.

The inspection team acknowledged that the changes we have made since the last inspection have made a difference (and this is a thread that runs through the report) but that the impact of these changes has not been quick enough. I agree and this is a

frustration because the work that has been going on this year in the school has been gathering momentum and we still need to reduce inconsistent practice.

As mentioned in the report, the school did have a large turnover of staff at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year meaning that a larger number of staff than usual joined at the start of 2017-2018 and that did have an effect on continuity. Whilst it takes time to embed a large number of new staff and the lag in progress this had, we have strength in our staffing structure and the 'turnover' of staff since 2017 has been normal, if a little lower than normal in fact.

Mathematics has been mentioned specifically in the report, referring to summer 2018 outcomes. Most of our current team were appointed in September 2018 including a new Curriculum Leader (Miss Thorpe) and Deputy Curriculum Leader (Mr Goldsworthy), inducted by our Associate Assistant Headteacher, Mr Griffiths. He oversaw this process and continues to work within the Maths team. The inspection team acknowledge that this team are stronger and we know that the department will be able to sustain its improvement and they remain fully staffed for September. Nevertheless this OFSTED judgement has impacted on our outlook and we have already begun working on the recommendations as they complement our whole school priority action plan.

The inspectors made many positive observations and comments as well as areas we need to focus on. I encourage you to read the full report for yourself. Whilst many strengths have been identified it is essential that leaders at all levels ensure that there is greater consistency across areas that have been highlighted, we sustain the work we are doing and that the impact of our actions are measured carefully. This is reflected in our development planning, moving forwards which we would like to share with you. In that spirit I am planning to hold meetings for any parents/carers interested in hearing our vision for the future and the summary action plan in response to the report. These will take place early next term as the report has not been published officially yet.

These will take place in the school hall on Thursday 12 September 2019 at the following times:

Year 7 Parents: 5.00pm

Year 8 & 9 Parents: 6.00pm

Year 10 & 11 Parents: 7.00pm

If you would like to attend please email events@aldworth.hants.sch.uk to reserve a place and allow us to make the appropriate seating arrangements. Please indicate how many seats you require. If there are any specific queries that you have; please note them on your email. I and my colleagues will try to incorporate them into the presentations. We will be able to go into much more detail than a letter can provide. If you are unable to attend I will ensure that additional information, based on the presentations, is emailed to you thereafter.

The full OFSTED report is attached for you as a PDF file and will be available to view on our website from Thursday 18 July 2019. Also attached is a PDF of the curriculum statement from our website (as well as an appendix below of a list of all the subjects we offer at Key Stage 4) as they have repeatedly praised our broad and balanced curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Denis McCabe

Denis McCabe
Headteacher

Appendix: Aldworth Key Stage 4 Courses

Subject

Art & Design

Year 11 - Business

Year 10 - Business Enterprise

Biology

Chemistry

Construction

Drama

English Literature

English Language

French

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Geography

German

Hair & Beauty

Health & Social Care

History

Year 11 - ICT

Year 10 - Digital IT

Media

Mathematics

Music

Product Design

PE

Physics

Religious Studies B

Science - Combined Trilogy

Spanish