



STEWARDS ACADEMY

SCIENCE SPECIALIST

Parnall Road, Harlow, Essex. CM18 7NQ
Tel: (01279) 421951 Fax: (01279) 435307
e-mail: admin@stewardsacademy.org
Website: <http://www.stewardsacademy.org>



Headteacher: Mrs H. Ginger BSc Mathematical Sciences

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following our recent Ofsted Inspection, we are pleased to be able to share with you the outcome of the inspection, namely that **Stewards Academy remains a good school.**

I would like to share with you a few highlights from the inspection, with quotes from the report shown in blue:

Inspectors commented on the pupils and their experience in the classroom:

'Pupils are friendly and welcoming. In lessons, they work hard and focus well. This creates a positive environment for them to learn in.'

And that:

'Teachers teach the curriculum well. They plan learning that considers carefully how to build pupils' subject knowledge. When teachers introduce new content, pupils can link it to what they have learned before. Teachers check pupils' learning effectively.'

The design of the curriculum was considered, and it was recognised that:

'Leaders ensure that pupils learn a broad curriculum.'
'Leaders continue to develop some areas of the curriculum ... This proactive approach ensures that the curriculum is suitably ambitious.'

The academy's focus on reading following the pandemic was recognised as a strength:

'Pupils like to read books often. They also like it when teachers read to them. Pupils who need to catch up in their reading get the help they need to read well.'

'Leaders and teachers have made sure that all pupils become fluent readers. Pupils choose from a wide range of books to read for pleasure. Pupils read literature regularly in lessons. Less-confident readers get the support they need. Staff who teach reading identify gaps in pupils' knowledge and teach pupils complex words to increase their vocabulary.'

As you will know the academy's mission has always been to ensure pupil's personal development is a priority. This, too, was recognised by the inspection team:

'Pupils enjoy the wide range of clubs and activities on offer. In assemblies, pupils share news about school successes, for example in sports and rocket science competitions. Those who love poetry learn how to publish their work. School council members tell leaders and governors what works well in school.'



making physics matter



Leading Space Education
Quality Mark



'Leaders challenge pupils to show the school's 'courage' values when they join clubs and activities. Pupils rise to these high expectations. Theatrical productions, dragon club, debate club, student ambassadors and multicultural baking events are some of the activities that broaden pupils' perspectives. Pupils who have special responsibilities are excellent role models for younger pupils.'

Safeguarding is always a key focus for an inspection team and safeguarding was judged as effective at the academy.

'Pupils are confident to talk about their concerns and worries because their teachers often remind them to "talk to us". Pupils are safe at school. When bullying sometimes happens, they are confident that staff will put a stop to it.'

'Leaders make sure that the curriculum includes information about how to stay safe. Leaders of safeguarding develop pupils' awareness through fortnightly briefings about local risks. Pupils know how to keep themselves safe, including online.'

The role of the inspection team when visiting is also to identify areas for improvement for an academy.

The first area of improvement is that of the conduct of some pupils around the academy. It was recognised that: *'Following periods of lockdown and remote learning due to COVID-19 restrictions, leaders and managers have taken the right actions to improve pupils' behaviour in lessons. Almost all pupils behave well in lessons. When a few pupils do not meet leaders' expectations, staff manage these situations effectively.'* It was, however also noted that some pupils can be noisy and boisterous at break and lunch times. You will be aware that our newly introduced 'Community Correction', is designed to supervise pupils in the hall away from their peers when their behaviour falls short of our very high standards. Initial reports are that this is making a difference, with pupils as you can imagine, very keen to spend their social time with their friends.

The second area of improvement is in relation to making adjustments in the classroom for some SEND pupils. While it was recognised that: *'Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) who are in receipt of an education, health and care (EHC) plan get suitable support.'*, it was noted that further work could be done to enhance the provision for pupils with SEND who are not in receipt of an EHC plan. The academy's ambition for excellence in this aspect of school provision has been recognised through the work to achieve the renowned SENDIAS award over this year and next. The assessor for this award was in school this week and was impressed by the progress made so far.

If you would like to read the full Ofsted report, you can find a copy on our Academy Website.

I know that you will be as pleased as we are that the numerous strengths of the academy have been recognised by Ofsted. I am sure that you would wish to join me in congratulating both staff and the pupils on their efforts and achievements in receiving such a positive report.

We continue to feel very supported by you, the parents, in all we do to strive for the very highest of standards.

Kind regards,

Helen Ginger
Headteacher