

6th October 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We are writing to share the outcome of the school's recent Ofsted inspection, which took place in June, and to set out the work under way in response.

The report concludes that the school requires special measures. While safeguarding standards are met, inspectors judged personal development and wellbeing as needing attention, with the remaining areas judged to require urgent improvement.

We are extremely disappointed by this outcome and know that you will be too. The findings are not in line with the high expectations we set for our school and expect for our students, and we are taking the areas raised for improvement very seriously.

The main areas identified by Ofsted for improvement include attendance, students' achievement, consistency of teaching, and the support in place for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged students. The report also noted the work needed to further embed our new behaviour system, including reducing incidents of bullying and inappropriate language, and ensuring all students consistently show respect and tolerance towards one another.

Many of these areas had already been recognised as priorities by the school and Ormiston Academies Trust, but we are clear that progress has not been quick enough and that more needs to be done to address them urgently. To accelerate this work, as you know, the trust sought a partnership with Delta Academies Trust, which has a strong track record of school improvement locally and has already provided valuable additional capacity and expertise.

As part of this, Mr Rob Spendlow has been working as Interim Principal alongside the senior leadership team, staff and both trusts to strengthen leadership and put the right foundations in place. Our planned transfer to Delta later this autumn will be integral to accelerating the improvements being made, giving the school the long-term support it needs to sustain them.

Since the inspection, and as part of our clear school improvement plan, this work has continued at pace, including:

- To strengthen attendance, a new education welfare officer is working closely with families, alongside daily attendance checks, a new tutor programme, access to online catch-up classes and a senior leadership surgery where parents can discuss any concerns
- To improve the consistency of teaching, there are now regular visits to lessons throughout the school day, clear expectations for every classroom and regular reviews of students' work, so that teachers can check understanding and address any gaps quickly
- To track students' progress more closely, a new assessment cycle has been introduced, alongside a new reading strategy and weekly meetings to identify students who need extra support
- To better support students with SEND and disadvantaged students, an enhanced and dedicated SEND teaching and learning team has been established, every student's individual support plan is being reviewed, and a new plan has been drafted for how additional government funding is used
- To further embed the behaviour system, break and lunchtimes have been split, which has already reduced behaviour concerns, alongside closer recording and follow-up of incidents. There will also be themed assemblies each half term on safeguarding and the school's expectations
- To make sure families' views shape our priorities, regular surveys of students, parents and staff have been introduced, alongside closer working with the local authority and other agencies

Whilst there is significant work still to do, we are pleased that inspectors recognised that the changes introduced by leaders have begun to show early signs of positive impact. We are already seeing this in the school, with attendance so far this term rising close to, and often above, 90%, as one example. We would like to thank families for their support and cooperation in helping to make this possible.

The report also recognises some of our school's strengths, which we are working hard to build on. This includes that "pupils are safe and many have positive relationships with staff and their peers", and that students benefit from a well-planned careers programme, with regular opportunities to meet local employers, colleges and universities. Inspectors also highlighted the wide range of enrichment on offer, from clubs and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to trips and residential visits, and the pastoral support available to students, including a full-time counsellor.

The full report can be read on our website and via the Ofsted site. Being placed in special measures means Ofsted will monitor the school closely, with regular visits to check progress, which we are confident will be made.

As previously communicated, with more information to follow in due course, plans are well under way for the school to transfer to Delta Academies Trust later this autumn, building on the strong and impactful partnership already in place to sustain and accelerate these improvements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact and we would also be happy to arrange a meeting should this be helpful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Rob Spendlow
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Education Director (North)
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