



29 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

OFSTED monitoring update

I am writing to update you on our rapid progress following the recent OFSTED inspection and on next steps for the ongoing monitoring of the school.

As you will already know, during our OFSTED inspection in April 2026, a number of areas for improvement, which we had previously identified, were corroborated by Inspectors. As such, they were clear that appropriate plans for school improvement were in place and that the monitoring process would focus on demonstrating the impact of this work. In some of the areas where a 'needs attention' judgement was found, OFSTED have since changed the inspection criteria to better reflect the context of community schools like ours.

Monitoring process

On Thursday 24 September I met online with Thomas Wraith (His Majesty's Inspector, HMI) who is leading the monitoring process. This calls for a return visit by an OFSTED inspector within 24 months of the last inspection. This is agreed with the school and is designed to allow the best opportunity to demonstrate progress. In the interim a termly call is carried out between the HMI and the Headteacher to discuss progress against agreed actions.

Actions and Progress

There were five agreed areas for improvement which were:

1. Improved attendance
2. Enhanced programme for developing foundational knowledge (Phonics, reading/writing and numeracy)
3. More consistent application of adaptations in classrooms for pupils with barriers to learning
4. More consistent use of formative assessment in all faculty areas
5. Achievement moves closer to National averages

I am delighted to share information from our positive discussion which highlighted the progress we have already made in all of these areas and the plans for further impact:

Attendance is up almost 2% from the same time last year (and 6% since the time of inspection).

Over 130 pupils have been screened for literacy difficulties in addition to NGRT testing for the entire Year 7 and 8 cohorts. Work to support those with weaker literacy skills is now underway.

Quality assurance systems in school have shown a 28% improvement on the consistency of adaptive strategies and this will be the focus of external scrutiny in November through our partnership with the Red Kite Alliance.

Formative assessment is a key plank of our 3-year action plan and a range of both internal and external CPD for staff has focused on this.

We saw a second successive year of enhanced exam outcomes in English and Mathematics as well as a wide range of other subjects.

Next steps

I will be inviting OFSTED to return, most likely in the Autumn term of 2027-2028 when we expect to be able to demonstrate even more progress, which will hopefully include a third year of sustained improvement in examination results at Key Stage 4, alongside our already outstanding outcomes within the Denys Salt Sixth Form.

On 7 January 2027 I will be inviting all interested parents and carers to an information evening which will give further details on our response to OFSTED, and the plans and progress made since. I hope you will be able to join me for this.

I hope this update is of interest and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents/carers for your ongoing support for the school.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Temple
Headteacher