

3 May 2022

Dear Family,

Ofsted Inspection Report

Included with this letter is a copy of the Ofsted report from Thorns Collegiate Academy's inspection on 8 and 9 February 2022.

I am sure that you will be very shocked and disappointed to read that the school has been rated as 'Inadequate'.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain some of the context behind the judgement and to reassure you that we have already taken significant steps to resolve the concerns mentioned in the report. At the end of the first day the school was on course to be classified as Good but on the second day a number of organisational issues surfaced. One was in relation to Safeguarding and the other in terms of how we supported our students who were in receipt of an Education Health Care Plan.

The major safeguarding issue highlighted in the report was caused by a breakdown in processes, which was identified between the school and an external organisation. This led to a significant and justified concern being raised by the inspection team. Both the school and the Trust take safeguarding issues extremely seriously and it is unacceptable that this occurred. This was one of the first items that we moved to address, and significant changes have already been made at the school to ensure that this is not repeated.

We are also addressing the additional concerns raised around SEND support, suitable and thorough assessment of students' progress, and absence rates through a robust and longer-term plan agreed between the Trust and the academy.

Unfortunately, this does not stop the report from being published at this time.

What we will do in addition to addressing all of the points raised in the report is to seek a re-inspection for the school as soon as possible. We hope that this could happen as quickly as the autumn term. Following the re-inspection, we anticipate that the Special Measures will be lifted, and the school will receive an Ofsted rating that is a true reflection of the huge improvements that have been made in the last five years.

Thorns Collegiate Academy is a vastly different school to the one that joined the Trust in 2017. This is something that staff and students should not lose sight of, and we hope that you have also been able to see the results of these improvements through your child's experience at Thorns.

Within the Trust we always say that 'nothing less than outstanding is acceptable', and we will continue to work with the Thorns community to make this a reality.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr M Kelay
Principal, Thorns Collegiate Academy



Sir Mark Grundy
CEO, Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust