



Quarrydale Academy

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Headteacher's Letter – Ofsted Inspection Update

June 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the School Community,

I am writing to you following the recent Ofsted inspection of Quarrydale Academy, which took place in May 2025. The official outcome of the inspection was that the school "Requires Improvement." While this may be disappointing at first glance, I would like to begin by highlighting the many positives within the report that reflect the spirit, dedication, and progress of our school.

Ofsted inspectors recognised Quarrydale Academy as a caring environment, one where staff are described as "hardworking and committed to providing pupils with the support they need," and where pupils "feel safe." The school's pastoral offer was praised as "strong," and parents told inspectors about our "lovely teachers" and the "supportive" ethos that defines our approach. Inspectors also acknowledged our efforts to provide pupils with enriching experiences, such as trips abroad and mentoring opportunities.

The report describes the curriculum in most subjects as "coherent and ambitious," with learning that is generally "sequenced well" to help pupils build their knowledge and produce high-quality work. Our staff were described as "caring and inclusive," particularly in their support for students with special educational needs and disabilities. Improvements in behaviour, prioritisation of attendance, and the overall commitment of our team were clearly noted by the inspection team.

While we fully respect the inspection process, it is important to recognise that the current Ofsted framework places greater weight on identifying areas for development than it does on highlighting what is working well. We are not complacent, the report identified some areas requiring further improvement, including greater curriculum consistency, more



adaptive teaching practices, and enhancements to sixth form provision. These aims are already a core part of our school improvement plans.

Throughout this academic year, every department has undergone a thorough review to quality assure its curriculum planning, delivery, and impact. These reviews were part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and provided the foundation for much of the feedback Ofsted shared with us. Prior to the inspection, we had already begun focused work on key areas such as staff training in adaptive teaching techniques, strengthening the use of formative assessment in lessons, and refining our behaviour policy to ensure greater clarity and consistency across the school.

Additionally, Ofsted has advised that we increase curriculum time allocated to Religious Education and enhance pupils' exposure to Fundamental British Values, outdoor education, and fieldwork. We are now taking steps to rebalance the curriculum by creating new experiences beyond the classroom that enrich our pupils' learning and personal growth.

Our strategic response is detailed in a comprehensive Post-Ofsted Action Plan, which aligns with the current Education Inspection Framework and builds on the progress we had already begun. Once, this document is finalised it will be shared with all stakeholders.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our staff, students, and families for their contributions and their commitment to Quarrydale. Our young people showed maturity, pride, and ambition throughout the inspection. They are the heart of our school, and their continued success is our driving purpose.

We are not standing still. Quarrydale is on a clear improvement journey. Despite ongoing national challenges, we continue to raise standards and aspirations. We do this with conviction, clarity, and care.

As Headteacher, I am committed to leading Quarrydale forward with honesty, ambition, and a deep belief in the potential of our students and our community. While we continue to reflect on and respond to the recent Ofsted report, it is important to remember that our work is not defined by a short visit. Our vision goes beyond inspection cycles. It is about delivering meaningful change, raising aspirations, and improving life chances for every child in our care.

Moving forward, we are now working towards an updated OFSTED reporting system, which is currently under a national consultation, which seeks to offer a more rounded and contextualised understanding of a school's strengths and challenges. This updated



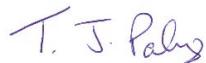
approach moves away from narrow headline judgements and a 'Report Card System'. We welcome this change. More importantly, we remain vigilant and dedicated to making lasting improvements not only within our classrooms, but throughout the wider community we serve.

You can read the full Ofsted report here when it is published later this week:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/137857>

Finally, thank you for standing with us. Together, we will build a school that this community can continue to be proud of.

Yours faithfully,



Tim Paling
Headteacher

