



Haydon Bridge High School

Headteacher: Michael Smith

22nd September 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Following the visit to the school by Ofsted in July, we are delighted to now be able to tell you that Haydon Bridge High School has been removed from special measures.

The team of inspectors visited to carry out a monitoring visit to check on the progress that the school was making, but took the decision to convert this visit into a full Section 5 inspection and take the school out of special measures due to the progress that they saw during the inspection.

The team judged that the school requires improvement and we have already started to work on the areas that they identified for us to develop further. Inspectors identified many of the positives that the school has been working on to continue to improve the experience of our students and are committed to continuing to improve over the coming years.

Inspectors said, *"Pupils and staff members know each other well in this small school. Pupils respect each other and feel welcome, including pupils who join the school after Year 7. ... Bullying is rare and pupils are confident that staff members will deal with it effectively if it occurs. Pupils told inspectors that they feel safe at Haydon Bridge. ... Pupils understand how other people might be different from them and are respectful towards others. ... Staff are knowledgeable about the risks to young people and know what they can do to help keep pupils safe. Leaders ensure that this knowledge is updated regularly. ... Leaders have developed robust systems to identify pupils who are at risk and act quickly to support these pupils. ... The arrangements for safeguarding are effective."*

"Pupils behave well enough in lessons so that everyone is able to focus on learning. If pupils misbehave, teachers challenge this, and pupils respond quickly to teachers' instructions."

"Leaders have been successful in improving pupils' behaviour. They have set out clear expectations for behaviour and introduced systems that support teachers to implement the changes. Pupils and staff recognise the impact of these changes. ... Attendance is improving. ... Staff work closely with pupils whose poor behaviour results in leaders excluding them. As a result, the number of pupils who have been excluded has fallen over time."

"Pupils appreciate the new buildings and equipment that is available to them and they enjoy the outside space at breaktime."

"Leaders have improved the quality of plans for what pupils need to learn. In most subjects these plans are ambitious, and they carefully build pupils' knowledge over time. ... Leaders have focused on ensuring that the curriculum plans they have in place are implemented well. ... Teachers are clear about the importance of checking that pupils remember what they have learned. Most teachers plan and teach effectively to help pupils learn well. "



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“Students in the sixth form are taught by subject specialists. Students learn well and develop good knowledge of the courses they study. ... Sixth-form students value the strong support they receive from staff.”

“Support for pupils who are not fluent readers is working well. ... Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) get the support they need. Teachers adapt their teaching to make sure that these pupils are able to learn.”

“Teachers make good use of daily tutor time to develop pupils’ knowledge of current affairs and the wider world. ... Staff care about pupils and support them. Pupils are positive about how the school has looked after their mental health. ... Leaders have planned an effective curriculum for personal, social and health education(PSHE).”

“Senior leaders have rightly ensured that curriculum leadership is strengthened. Subject leaders have been supported through external coaching. Subject leaders’ value this support and are increasingly effective in their roles. ... Leaders consider staff workload when implementing changes, and staff were positive about the support they receive.”

“The interim executive board support and challenge leaders to improve effectively. They have carried out focused visits to the school to check the impact of leaders’ actions, for example actions to improve the teaching of pupils with SEND.”

The full report will be published by Ofsted on their website over the coming weeks.

We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to work together with you and all our young people as we continue to improve the school through our dedication to excellence.

Yours faithfully

Michael Smith

Headteacher