

ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE, BIG ENOUGH TO DELIVER A POSITIVE IMPACT

FEBRUARY 2016



ASTLEY JUDGED **GOOD** BY OFSTED

On 12 and 13 January 2016, Ofsted inspected our school and rated our Overall effectiveness as 'Good'. We also achieved a 'Good' rating across all five of the separate Ofsted judgments: outcomes for pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils, 16 to 19 study programmes, and leadership and management.

Overall effectiveness:

GOOD

This is a **good** school. Pupils' achievement is **good**. Improving the quality of teaching has been at the heart of the school's work. Teaching is now consistently **good** and some is inspirational.

Ofsted, 2016



A message from John Barnes, Executive Head Teacher

"This is fantastic news for our school. It reinforces very positive GCSE and post-16 results in 2015 and achieving first place in the Department for Education's Key Stage 4 national performance tables for similar schools.

Ofsted recognised that improvements in attainment and progress are being sustained by current students, which reflects the continuous hard work and determination of everyone in the school community. The inspection team were also really impressed with the good behaviour and positive attitude of students.

However every school can improve and the recent inspection also identified some areas for development, particularly the attendance of some groups of pupils. This will help us to focus our ongoing drive to ensure every learner succeeds."

John Barnes

Astley **First** in 2015 National Performance Tables

We are also celebrating the recent news that Astley has come first in the Department for Education Key Stage 4 performance table for similar schools across England.



61% of Astley Community High School students achieved 5 or more A*- C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and Maths in 2015. This was the best result of those schools in England where pupils had similar attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 in Year 6.

Like to read the inspection report?

The full Ofsted inspection report is available on the Astley Community High School website at:

www.astleyhigh.org/aboutus/ofsted

Contact us:

T: 0191 2371505

E: reception@astleyhigh.org

W: www.astleyhigh.org

Outcomes for Pupils:

GOOD



Pupils' achievement is good. In the 2015 GCSE examinations, almost every group of pupils made good progress from their starting points in both English and mathematics.

Key points from the Ofsted report:

- Overall achievement has steadily improved.
- Proportion of pupils who gained 5 or more good GCSE passes including English and mathematics was **above average** and progress made from their starting points was **strong**.
- Detailed and careful examination of internal progress showed that steady improvements in the last two years' exam results are **not only being sustained but are gaining in strength** as a result of sustained improvement in the quality of teaching.
- **More able pupils** are making **rapid progress**.
- **Almost all pupils** enter employment, education or training.



Annette Rhodes,
Head of School

"I am really pleased that Ofsted recognised the progress we are making, particularly improvements in the quality of teaching and learning.

We celebrated excellent examination results in the summer, at both GCSE and A Level, and these reflect the ongoing unrelenting efforts of staff and students and the support of their parents and carers. I am absolutely delighted for all associated with Astley Community High School."

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment:

GOOD



Pupils enjoy learning. They value and appreciate the care taken by teachers to help them with their studies. Written work is carefully assessed and pupils respond thoughtfully to the guidance.

Key points from the Ofsted report:

- Teachers **know their pupils well** and take care to plan lessons effectively in order to meet their learning needs.
- Learning proceeds at a **good pace**. Pupils respond well to teachers' **high expectations of conduct**.
- Teachers use their **good subject knowledge** to ask **challenging questions** which demand that pupils think deeply and carefully.
- Teaching Assistants provide **good and timely support** for pupils with additional needs.
- The school demands **high levels of literacy** from all pupils.
- **More able pupils** have every opportunity to excel and regularly experience **high levels of challenge**.
- Teachers follow the **marking policy rigorously**.
- Parents are **well informed** as to their children's progress through regular reports and parents' evenings.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare:

GOOD

Behaviour in lessons and around the school is good. Pupils are considerate and courteous. They value learning and take pride in their work.

Key points from the Ofsted report:

- Pupils are **polite, respectful and caring** for one another.
- Pupils are **well cared for** and value the support they receive.
- Pupils say that they feel **very safe** in school.
- Low-level disruption is **kept in check well**.
- Overall **attendance** and persistent absence are a constant concern to the school.



Graham Scott, Assistant Headteacher
Student Support

"Although the report was largely very positive, Ofsted recognised that the attendance of some groups of pupils still needs to improve.

Your child's attendance record directly affects their chances of gaining good grades and ultimately their earning potential in life."

Here's what parents/carers and students can do to help us improve attendance:

- ✓ Make sure your child understands why school is important.
- ✓ Show your child that you are interested in what they have done at school.
- ✓ Wherever possible, arrange appointments before or after school, or during the school holidays.
- ✓ Please do not take holidays in term time as we only authorise these in exceptional circumstances.
- ✓ Contact us if you need help to support your child and/or family.

16-19 Study Programmes:

GOOD

“Learners in the sixth form thrive. They make good progress in lessons and are very well prepared for the next stage of their education.”



Adam Ironside,
Assistant Headteacher
Sixth Form

“I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised how dedicated we are in providing our sixth form students with an environment in which everyone can thrive.

In particular, the report recognised our work in ensuring that more and more of our learners attend Russell Group universities, or where appropriate, gain places on some of the very best apprenticeships.”



Key points from the Ofsted report:

- **Leadership and management** of the sixth form are good.
- In external examinations, learners make **good progress** from their actual starting points.
- Inspectors saw learners making good or better progress in **all subjects** as a result of **good teaching** which at times was inspirational.
- Great care is taken to ensure that learners' study programmes **match their abilities, interests, aspirations and career plans.**
- Learners applying for apprenticeships or moving directly into employment are **well supported.**

Leadership and management:

GOOD

“Leaders and managers have transformed the quality of educational provision at the school. Resolute and determined, they have maintained a relentless focus on improving standards and tackling weakness.”

Susan Dungworth, Chair of Governors,
Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

“I am extremely pleased with the outcome of the Ofsted report and its acknowledgement of our commitment to improve standards and close gaps in achievement. It provides the ideal platform for us to continue our drive forward as we strongly believe that any gap in achievement is too wide.”