



24th April 2026

Dear SNHS Families

SNHS OFSTED Inspection – Update for Families

As I am sure most of you are aware, we were subject to an OFSTED Inspection this week. I want to continue our ongoing theme of communication by writing to all families to share an update on this process and some initial feedback on how it went.

At the start of this week, we received a call from Ofsted informing us that the school would be subject to a full inspection, taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday. Inspectors arrived at 8am on Tuesday and spent two full days looking closely at the quality of education we provide. Their work included visiting lessons across all Key Stages, speaking with many of our students, meeting staff and leaders, and reviewing all the Parent and Staff View responses submitted. They also completed work scrutiny and spent time observing students at break and social times. They have explored every part of our school, including our SEND provision, leadership, governance, personal development and wellbeing, behaviour and inclusion. OFSTED are now operating with a revised inspection framework that is acknowledged to be incredibly thorough and sets a very high bar for schools – which SNHS absolutely agree with to ensure that education provision across all schools remains equitable for our young people.

Although the inspection process is always intense, the team were incredibly complimentary about our students, our staff and our wider community. They spoke with real warmth about the maturity of our young people, their ability to articulate their views, and the calm, respectful atmosphere across the school. They described their time at SNHS as a genuine pleasure. There were a large volume positive reflections made by the inspection team across the two days and I look forward to sharing these with you when the full report is written.

Before explaining the next steps in the Ofsted process, there are three important messages I want to share — because they reflect who we are as a school and what has shaped this moment.

Gratitude

I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to our whole school community — our students, our families and our staff.

Our students were outstanding throughout the inspection. They spoke with maturity, confidence and honesty about their experiences at SNHS, and they represented the school with pride. Inspectors commented repeatedly on their conduct, their thoughtfulness and the way they engaged in conversations about their learning and wellbeing. They were a credit to themselves and to you.

I also want to thank our families for the support you show every day — not just during an inspection, but in the countless ways you help your children to thrive while in our care. Your encouragement, your communication with us, and your trust in the school makes a huge difference. The strength of partnership between home and school was clear to the inspection team, and it is something we value enormously. Feedback in the parent voice articulated this and we want to ensure that community and family engagement remains a cornerstone of our school provision.

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And finally, my thanks to our staff team, who showed exceptional dedication throughout the inspection (as they do every day). Every colleague, in every part of the school, played their part with professionalism, care and a deep commitment to our young people. Their hard work, energy and willingness to go above and beyond made a real difference.

Together, students, families and staff created the atmosphere that inspectors experienced — calm, purposeful, warm and proud. It truly was a whole-community effort.

Validation

I wanted to share with families that the positive feedback we received did not happen by chance. It reflects many months of deliberate, thoughtful school improvement work across all areas of SNHS — something I know myself and my school leaders have worked tirelessly on. What the inspectors saw was simply our school as it is every day — strong relationships, purposeful learning, and a community that cares deeply about its young people. We know that you cannot manufacture that for a two-day visit; it is lived, not performed. We are delighted that this was clear for OFSTED to see and observe.

Resilience and Trust

The last few years have brought some challenges for our school community, and I wanted to formally recognise and show gratitude for the resilience shown throughout. Our School Community have continued to put students first, even when circumstances have been more difficult. I am also deeply grateful for the trust the school community has placed in the leadership of the school and the direction we are taking. That trust has been vital in helping us move forward together and I want to personally thank all those families and community members that continue to trust the direction I take the school in as we strive to constantly grow and move forwards.

Where This Inspection Sits in Our Journey

This was the first full Ofsted inspection the school has had since 2018, and a great deal has changed in that time. The school has grown, evolved and strengthened significantly over the past few years, and this inspection provided an important opportunity for the current SNHS community — our students, staff and families — to show who we are today.

The Ofsted Process and What Happens Next

At the end of every inspection, Ofsted shares provisional judgements with school leaders. These early outcomes are not final and cannot be shared with families or the wider public until the full report has been written, checked and formally approved. This quality-assurance process takes around 18 working days.

What I can say is that the feedback we received during the inspection was extremely positive. Inspectors highlighted the strong sense of community, the calm and purposeful atmosphere, the quality of relationships, and the maturity with which our young people spoke about their school experience. They were highly complementary about our students, our staff and the culture of the school.

Once the final report is released, we will share the confirmed judgements with all families and celebrate the outcome together.

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Our Ongoing Work

As with all inspections, the team identified a small number of areas for further development. These align closely with our existing priorities and are already part of our ongoing work. We had already anticipated and self-evaluated our areas to improve further and felt their comments were fair, constructive and reflective of where we are on our journey.

It is our shared vision and belief that ***it takes a village to raise a child***. This week has been a powerful reminder of that truth. Our students, our families and our staff each play a vital role in shaping the culture, values and daily life of SNHS.

What the inspectors saw was a community working together, supporting one another, and doing the very best for our young people. That is what makes SNHS special, and it is something we will continue to build on in the months and years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. It makes a genuine difference to the way we operate.

Warm wishes

Mr M Motteram

Very Proud Head of School

