



21 June 2022

Re: Inclusion Quality Mark – ‘Centre of Excellence’

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to announce that we have recently been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) – ‘Centre of Excellence’ award following our two-day assessment process in May. Assessors met with a range of students, parents and staff at the school to examine the extent of our inclusive practices, reflect on the strategic direction of the school and to evaluate the quality of education we deliver in terms of inclusivity. Our ethos of respect, opportunity, support, and achievement for all, underpinned by our school values of kindness, integrity, perseverance, humility and courageousness have been recognised by this national award.

Along with reporting the next steps in terms of what we can work on to improve our provision for all students, the report identified several outstanding features and developments that already exist around Inclusion and specifically identifies that there, *‘is a strong sense of the school living its values in an environment where all stakeholders feel unique, respected, valued, and consulted with’*.

Below is a capture of what is included in the news story on the IQM website, the report and an outline of our next steps:

Introducing Finham Park School

Students of all ages and abilities agreed that the ‘togetherness’ of Finham Park is extremely positive in promoting wellbeing and learning, that ‘teachers genuinely care about individuals’ and that ‘teaching is well targeted to students ‘needs’ as ‘teachers use lots of different ways to help people understand’.

Dynamic Focus

The sense of positivity at Finham Park is almost palpable. Energy is overt, yet focussed, and drives an ongoing desire to constantly review and develop practice pastorally, to ensure that students are ‘fit to learn’ and can, therefore, access an ongoing evolving, broad and deep curriculum offer, which is delivered using an increasing range of pedagogical techniques.

Word Class Studies

A key strength of the school is its rich, challenging curriculum which is continuously being developed and adapted to meet the needs of all students. The school has successfully created a culture of celebrating knowledge and learning as having a lifelong value, in addition to creating more personal pathways to apprenticeships and universities.



Cultural Capital

Enrichment and extension activities provide opportunities for students to have 'the time of their lives.' Students and parents reported on the range of experiences which they have been able to access. Despite limitations imposed during the pandemic restrictions of the last two years, the school has been quick to plan for the reintroduction of activities and trips. Funding allocated for 'Memorable Experiences' ensures that no child is financially excluded.

Removing Barriers – Enabling Success

The progress of students is clearly monitored using a range of formative and summative methods to identify gaps in learning and implement appropriate interventions. Pastoral, academic, and integrated structures are in place to ensure that the wellbeing and learning of students are regularly reviewed to identify and address any potential barriers to the progress of individuals or identifiable cohorts.

Positive Relationships

Engagement, mutual respect, personal responsibility, and positive relationships facilitate good behaviour for learning at Finham Park. The atmosphere is calm and purposeful. A culture of 'connection before correction' has been established and staff understand that engagement of students and a mutually respectful relationship with each individual student are important in maximising learning. This is underpinned with a clear and comprehensive Rewards and Sanctions Policy, which is appreciated and understood by students.

Global Perspective

As an accredited 'World Class School' Finham Park students have access to a wealth of opportunities to engage with groups and organisations. Although there have been some restrictions during the pandemic, every effort has been made to maintain and rekindle links as much as possible. These enrich the classroom curriculum, provide specialist professional expertise, create aspiration, develop students' global perspective, support personal development and employment skills whilst fuelling curiosity and enriching and enhancing the holistic educational experience for all.

Stakeholder Satisfaction

As a consequence of all the above, it is not surprising that there is an inherent 'joy' in all stakeholders at Finham Park School and that it is oversubscribed. Students cannot help but be inspired by and engaged in their formal and informal learning experiences. They feel secure, supported in their learning, and appreciate the opportunities provided for them to have fun! This is driven and underpinned by the humble, ambitious, determined approach of leadership to ensuring that its inclusion agenda continues to evolve through careful review



of its own systems and structures and an ongoing desire to learn from others. Senior Staff are aware of actions they wish to take in further developing inclusive practice.

Some of the next steps we will be working on include:

- Developing and embedding the Curriculum Enhancement Programme.
- Continuing to review the curriculum of each department with regard to diversity.
- Ensuring that pedagogy supports maximum progress of less able students, particularly in mixed ability classes and that feedback promotes ongoing progress.
- Sharing inclusive practices across the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust.

We would like to thank all parents, carers and staff, but most importantly the students, involved in the assessment process and look forward to working together with the IQM team to further enhance our inclusive provision for **all** at Finham Park School.

Please use the following link to access the full news story on the IQM website:

<https://iqmaward.com/news/finham-park-school-achieves-centre-of-excellence/>

Please use the following link to access the full report:

<https://finhampark.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/IQM-Report-May-2022.pdf>

Yours faithfully,

Finham Park School