

8 September 2026

Dear families

I hope you are well.

I am writing to share the outcome of our Ofsted inspection on 30 June 2026.

We have always been clear that our focus is on providing the very best education and care for our students, rather than inspection outcomes. Nonetheless, I am delighted that Ofsted recognised the strong foundations established at Dixons Newall Green since opening in September 2023, and the rapid progress made in a relatively short time.

Inspectors recognised the inclusive culture we have worked hard to create, stating that leaders have “deliberately engineered all aspects of the school's provision to be inclusive”. They also highlighted the care taken to understand and support every student as an individual, ensuring all young people can thrive and overcome the barriers they may face.

The report is particularly positive about the role of our trust and the school's leadership. Inspectors described the support from Dixons Academies Trust as “comprehensive, coherent and highly effective” and recognised the academy's “rapid trajectory of development” in its first three years.

Inspectors also found that leaders have created “a culture of belonging, responsibility and care” and noted the positive relationships between students and staff. They reported that students feel fortunate to attend the school, feel safe and well supported, and are proud to be part of its community.

Other highlights from the report include:

- Students are safe, feel safe and know that staff will help them if they have concerns.
- Leaders and staff take every opportunity to reinforce the highest expectations of behaviour.
- Leaders provide extensive opportunities for students to develop beyond the classroom through experiences such as musical theatre, cooking, overseas visits and leadership opportunities.
- The curriculum is ambitious and designed to help students build knowledge successfully across a wide range of subjects.
- Students with special educational needs and / or disabilities benefit from strong support and high expectations.
- Careers education is helping students make informed choices about their future pathways and aspirations.

These achievements are only possible through the partnership between our students, families, staff and wider community. Thank you for the trust, support and commitment you have shown since the school opened. Together, we are building a school of which our community can be proud.

Alongside this positive feedback, the report is clear – and we agree – that there is more work to do. Inspectors identified the need to ensure teaching strategies consistently meet the needs of all learners, including those with special educational needs and / or disabilities, so that every student experiences high-quality learning in every classroom and continues to make strong progress.

The report also highlights attendance. While inspectors recognised significant improvements over the last two years and noted that persistent absence has fallen sharply, overall attendance remains below the national average.

We can only continue to improve attendance by working together. The best place for a student is in school, in the classroom and learning every day. We will continue to provide support where needed while maintaining the high expectations our students deserve. Thank you to all families for continuing to ensure that children attend school regularly and on time.

With the continued support of our trust, we remain ambitious for every child. We are proud of what has been achieved and equally determined to build on these strong foundations, improving every aspect of our provision.

Thank you again for your support. By continuing to work in partnership, we can ensure every young person at Dixons Newall Green thrives and fulfils their potential.

You can read the full report on our website. Please note, some facts and figures at the end of the report show inaccuracies which are being addressed by the Department for Education.

If you have any questions about the inspection or report, please contact the academy.

Yours faithfully

Jo Whitworth
Principal

