

21/01/2013

Dear Parent

Sycamore Academy: Ofsted's interim assessment

I am pleased to provide some important information about Sycamore Academy.

As you may know, during its last inspection in January 2010, Ofsted inspectors judged your child's school to be good. Schools which are performing well are now inspected less often than other schools. This usually means that good schools are inspected once in five years, whilst schools that require improvement will be inspected between 12 to 24 months after their last inspection.

Some good schools are inspected after three years; others may have their inspections put back. To help decide whether we can wait longer than three years before undertaking a full inspection of a good school, Her Majesty's Inspectors look at, and evaluate, various sources of information, as listed below. This is called an 'interim assessment'.

The results of the interim assessment

In carrying out the interim assessment, we considered the following:

- pupils' attainment, including the attainment of significant groups of pupils with a focus on disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs, and pupils' attainment in core subjects
- pupils' progress, including the progress made by different groups of pupils
- pupils' attendance
- any inspection visits carried out by Ofsted since the last routine inspection
- qualifying complaints¹ about the school referred to Ofsted by parents or carers
- results from Parent View

¹ Ofsted has specific powers (under section 11a–c of the Education Act 2005, as amended) to investigate certain complaints, known as qualifying complaints.

- any other significant issues brought to Ofsted's attention, including from the relevant local authority.

I am pleased to inform you that our interim assessment shows that the school's performance has been sustained and that we can defer its next full inspection.

As a result, the next full inspection will not take place any earlier than the summer term 2014 unless we receive information in the course of the coming year that causes us to inspect earlier.

I wish everyone involved in the school continued success in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wilshaw".

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector