Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

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Dear Parent

Thomas Whitham Sixth Form: Ofsted's interim assessment

I am pleased to provide some important information about Thomas Whitham Sixth Form.

As you may know, during its last inspection in July 2011, Ofsted inspectors judged your child's school to be good. Schools that 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 normally be inspected within two years of their last inspection.

Some good schools are inspected about three years after their last inspection; others may have their inspections deferred to a later date. In order for Ofsted to decide when the next inspection of a good school should take place, Ofsted will consider and evaluate various sources of information, as listed below. This is called an '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 complaints[1] 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.

The results of the interim assessment

I am pleased to inform you that the interim assessment of your child's school indicates that the school's performance has been sustained. As a result, the next full inspection will not take place before the summer term 2015. However, should Ofsted receive information that raises significant concerns about the school in the course of the coming year, we may conduct an earlier inspection.

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

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector