

17th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may know, Northern House Academy received an Ofsted inspection at the end of June. This was the first time the school had been inspected since it joined The Gallery Trust in 2020 – having previously been judged ‘inadequate’. We have now received the inspectors’ report and we are incredibly proud to let you know we have been judged ‘Outstanding’ in all categories. This is a superb judgement and we would like to congratulate the entire school community for helping us achieve the highest grades possible.

The inspectors have given us a fantastic report in which they have praised every aspect of our school including our ‘highly ambitious curriculum’, our ‘calm and happy environment’ and the ‘diverse range of life shaping experiences’ on offer here.

Importantly, the inspectors have found that our pupils feel safe and happy and, crucially, feel understood and accepted here. In their report, the inspectors quote one pupil who told them that staff ‘really care about me, in their hearts’. It is fantastic to read this and for the inspectors to have noticed the incredible levels of support our staff give to all pupils and how they encourage them to be ‘authentically themselves’.

We would encourage you to read the full report which has been placed on our website. We have also included some quotes below which give a snapshot of what the inspectors said about our school.

We would like to thank you for the active role you play in your child’s education. It is a privilege to teach and support your children and to see them make progress. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with them and see them flourish.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the end of term assembly on Tuesday 23rd July at 10.00am at St Edwards.

Yours sincerely,



Ricky Stevens
Head Teacher



Bex Holmes
Head of School

Northern House Academy: Ofsted 2024

What the inspectors said:

On how we value our pupils:

'From the moment pupils start here, they are enveloped into a warm, inclusive culture and quickly develop a sense of belonging.'

'They are truly understood and accepted into the life of the school.'

'They are encouraged to be authentically themselves.'

'Pupils feel safe, happy, and they flourish.'

On how we support our pupils' emotional wellbeing and personal development:

'The atmosphere around school is inescapably positive.'

'Through a carefully designed holistic curriculum pupils are taught to reflect on their emotions and identify and develop personal strategies to self-regulate.'

'Each day, pupils have multiple opportunities for 'emotional check-ins'.'

'[There is] a remarkably calm and happy environment where everyone can concentrate in class.'

'Pupils develop high levels of self-awareness and empathy.'

'Pupils' education is thoughtfully enhanced with a diverse range of life-shaping experiences.'

On the quality of teaching and learning:

'Academic subjects are meticulously organised and so pupils make excellent progress.'

'Lessons are expertly delivered, through engaging, purposeful, and often, 'hands on' activities.'

'The precise balance between academic learning and personal development means that pupils gain the knowledge, skills and cultural capital that they need for their future success.'

'Therapeutic activities and support are expertly entwined through the teaching of the school's ambitious curriculum to ensure pupils learn and can achieve highly.'

On our formidable staff:

'The staff team know pupils exceptionally well and set high expectations.'

'[Staff] have high levels of expertise to meet the SEMH needs of the pupils.'

'[Trust leaders and staff] have a shared moral purpose to make a difference to the lives of the pupils.'