

February 2015

Dear Parents

I am writing with news of our Ofsted progress and other recent successes at school.

A team of inspectors visited school on February 4th and 5th to monitor progress. They recognised that the school had taken “decisive and successful action” to improve areas identified previously, even in the ten school weeks since the previous monitoring visit. I was pleased that the inspectors recognised improvement in the quality of teaching and in marking, as well as our systems for tracking student progress, all of which have been priorities for us. I was also delighted that the 6th form was also praised. The full report from the visit will be published next week and will be placed on our website. Please do read this.

The “Special Measures” system has changed during last year, and it is generally expected that schools will be fully re-inspected between eighteen months and two years after the original inspection. For Wood Green this means between this April and October. It is therefore certain that we will be fully re-inspected by October, but because the recent visit was positive, it is likely that our next monitoring visit in May or June will be our final inspection. Nationally, more schools are likely to be regraded first time to “Requires Improvement” rather than straight to “Good”. We will of course strive to be the very best we can be and welcome this opportunity to demonstrate not just improvements in key areas, but the wider strengths of the school.

I will be delighted to show the inspectors all the success Wood Green enjoyed last term, which I hope you will have seen in our weekly bulletins. It has been very important to me that, while we focus on school improvements, we keep the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and development of the whole child at our core too.

Sporting achievements were excellent last term, including our U16 Girls’ Badminton Team winning the County Championship for the fourth consecutive year. Well done to Rubie Gray, Lucy Cox, Rachel Everett and Sophie Bullock.

Wood Green has also excelled in its citizenship work. A mixed – age team won the “Have Your Say” West Oxfordshire competition by putting forward the best idea for improving our local community against five local schools. I was also very proud to present our Year 13 with their Citizenship Awards for community service, which every 6th former at Wood Green is expected to do. I gave out 75 awards, including 16 to those who achieved the highest award, Platinum, accumulating over 85 hours each. Of these, 2 students completed 250 and 290 hours: Aaron Gibson (cadets and lesson attachments) and Eleonore Organ-Jennings (Drama Club, Primary School work) respectively.

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## **The Term ahead**

We are now looking forward to more improvement and success in terms 4 and 5, when students from Years 10 to 13 are all preparing for external exams. Our school target for GCSE is for 61% of Year 11's to achieve 5A\* to C including English and Maths. This would mean Wood Green compares with the top 25% of students nationally, based on progress of this particular year group. Similarly for A level our target is 52% of grades at A\*-B. What is really important is all the individual hard work and success this represents for all our fantastic students.

There are also many exciting events in the weeks ahead and I look forward to sharing these with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R Shadbolt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'R' and a long, sweeping tail.

Mr R Shadbolt

Headteacher