

Monday 28th April 2025

Future Plans and Ofsted Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the hundreds of parents who have attended our open mornings and our *Future of TSLA* meetings. As discussed, the Ofsted inspection carried out in January 2025 has now concluded, and we have received the final report, which will be published later this week.

While we are disappointed with the headline inspection grades, we are using the findings from the inspection to shape and strengthen our improvement strategies.

We are pleased that the inspection team acknowledged a number of strengths within the school:

- Pupils feel safe in school and safeguarding is effective.
- The school has clearly identified the essential knowledge pupils need to learn and remember.
- Bullying is addressed effectively when reported, with staff providing appropriate support and sanctions.
- The school has begun placing English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects at the heart of the curriculum. Almost half of all pupils are now studying the EBacc.
- Inspectors observed positive attitudes to learning, particularly in Years 10 and 11. No behaviour issues were noted during the visit.
- Pupils with SEND benefit from dedicated care and support.
- The PSHE curriculum is well designed and covers relevant and important content.

However, we are disappointed by the overall outcomes of the report and some of the comments. We remain firmly committed to continuing the rapid improvement of our school.

Key Areas for Improvement

Regarding **Quality of Education**, inspectors noted that historic GCSE outcomes have been below national benchmarks. This reflects a broader pattern across Hastings and is often linked to the high number of pupils facing barriers to regular attendance. For some of these pupils, simply sitting their English and maths exams is already a positive step. However, we know this alone is not enough. We are an inclusive school and are focused on ensuring all pupils achieve the best possible qualifications.

We also recognise that curriculum breadth is an area for development. Additionally, we are working hard to support pupils who join us mid-year from other local schools, helping them to make rapid progress and achieve strong outcomes.

Attendance and Behaviour

Attendance has been a long-standing challenge across Hastings, including at TSLA, and remains below the national average. While we have made improvements and attendance has increased since our last inspection, inspectors made it clear that the rate of improvement needs to be faster. It is important to highlight that pupils who do attend regularly are achieving well, with many securing excellent results.

Inspiring our children and staff to flourish and achieve their best

Proud to be part of the University of Brighton Academies Trust

University of Brighton Academies Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7185046.



Inspectors found no issues with behaviour during their visit. However, they recommended that we consider alternatives to suspensions and exclusions and improve engagement for pupils who can be passive in lessons. Work is already underway to strengthen classroom culture and pupil engagement.

Looking Ahead

We have strong improvement plans in place. We are working with high-performing trusts to raise the quality of teaching and learning. Thanks to changes in funding this year, we have been able to increase staffing and have recruited experienced teachers in maths, science and geography.

We are confident that our current Year 10 and 11 pupils are on track to achieve significantly improved GCSE results. Attendance continues to rise, exclusions have fallen sharply, and more pupils are taking part in extracurricular clubs. We are also strengthening our approach to personal development to ensure pupils retain key knowledge and skills.

Working in Partnership

We recognise that Ofsted judgements offer only a snapshot in time. We are already well on our way to delivering improvements that will provide pupils with a better school experience and stronger outcomes. We want to continue working with our school community to ensure every child succeeds.

A small number of pupils and parents shared concerns with inspectors about unkind comments from peers. If you feel that your child has experienced any issues that have not been resolved satisfactorily, please do get in touch. We want to know and take appropriate action.

When the report is published, we will also provide a *Frequently Asked Questions* sheet to support your understanding of the findings. If you would like to attend a session to discuss the report, either in person or online, you can sign up using the link [please click here](#).

We would also like to invite you to visit the school during one of our open mornings. Please sign up using the link above.

We are determined to make St Leonards an outstanding school for our community. We are proud to be oversubscribed for the first time in six years and look forward to an announcement very soon about a new trust sponsor for the school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us via the school office email on tsla.office@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

Thank you again for your ongoing support.



Jon Francies
Principal

