



SST/ARA

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Principal

Shaun Strydom MEd

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for your support during our recent Ofsted inspection. They are very intensive, and often pressured periods, but I was incredibly proud of our students and staff for providing inspectors a true reflection of the excellent work that takes place at Brooke Weston Academy each and every day.

You may be aware that our last inspection took place more than 12 years ago when the Ofsted inspection process and criteria were very different to those conducted today. Given the significant changes in the Ofsted inspection framework, the areas and the way judgements are reached are quite different and more challenging than inspections that took place many years ago. We are therefore incredibly proud of our outcomes under a much more rigorous and very different inspection framework.

We are delighted that inspectors felt that Sixth Form and Personal Development were worthy of being rated the highest 'Outstanding' judgement – a significant achievement under the new inspection framework – and that all other areas were securely 'Good'. This means that our overall grading is 'Good'.

While I am sure some of you, like us, may feel disappointed about the overall, single-word judgement change, however, we urge you to read the high praise from inspectors that features in the report. The full Ofsted report can be found [here](#), but I wanted to share some highlights with you:

- "Brooke Weston Academy is a school which wants the very best for all pupils."
- "Leaders have a clear and ambitious vision for the school and are determined that pupils will succeed here."
- "Staff share consistently high expectations regarding pupils' behaviour and conduct"
- "The school is calm and purposeful."
- "The extensive enrichment programme is exemplary. It enables all pupils, including students in the sixth form to develop their talents and interests."
- "Parents appreciate the high aspirations that the school has for all pupils. A comment typical of many was: 'My child will leave Brooke Weston with memories that will last and an amazing attitude full of aspirations for their future.'"
- "The vast majority of pupils understand and follow the school routines well. They are keen to succeed, and they behave well in class... staff act quickly to ensure sanctions and additional support are in place as required."
- "The needs of pupils with SEND are expertly identified and shared with staff effectively."
- "The school uses external services and expert staff in school to ensure that pupils with SEND achieve exceptionally well."
- "The school prepares pupils effectively for their next steps."
- "Governors and trustees have a thorough understanding of the school. They work together effectively to provide direction, challenge, and support to school leaders."
- "Staff professional development is highly valued and a strength of the school."

- “Leaders are resolute in their desire to continually improve the school. Leaders take great care to consider the workload and well-being of staff.”
- “Staff are proud and happy to work at the school.”

Inspectors only highlighted one area of improvement within the entire report and grading criteria to secure an ‘Outstanding’ overall judgement. This related to ensuring consistent approaches to assessing student knowledge before moving on to new areas of the curriculum. This is an area that we had already been focusing on through professional development, quality assurance, coaching and training.

I would like to thank our staff and our colleagues from Brooke Weston Trust for continually supporting us in our endeavour to provide an exceptional educational experience, whilst upholding the high standards that make Brooke Weston Academy a fantastic school.

I am excited about all the great things we are working on to ensure we continue to deliver an excellent education at Brooke Weston Academy. Finally, it just remains for me to say what a privilege is it to lead this wonderful school. I am very grateful to you and your families for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Strydom', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shaun Strydom  
Principal