

Tuesday 13th May 2025

Dear Families,

Ref: Great Academy Ashton Ofsted Inspection Report – March 2025

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that I share with you the official Ofsted report following our most recent inspection, which took place on the 11th and 12th of March 2025. This full graded inspection saw five inspectors rigorously evaluate the quality of education, leadership and management, behaviour and attitudes, and personal development at Great Academy Ashton.

I am delighted to inform you that our school has received a series of “Good” judgments across Leadership and Management, Behaviour and Attitudes, and Personal Development. The quality of education remains as “Requires Improvement” but, as the report makes clear, significant progress has been made, and we are firmly on the path to sustained improvement.

Inspectors recognised that “this is a welcoming school” where “pupils feel safe and happy” and “speak highly of the support that they receive from pastoral staff.” I am proud that the team acknowledged our calm, well-organised environment and the strong relationships we foster across the school community.

They further noted that: “The school is increasingly ambitious for all pupils... The curriculum provides an extensive range of subjects... Pupils learn to keep themselves safe and be aware of the world around them.” And “There is a wide variety of extra-curricular activities... including sports, drama and catch-up clubs. The high-quality school band being a prime example.”

We were particularly pleased that Ofsted praised our continued focus on reading and vocabulary, describing our reading strategy as “ambitious” and recognising that “the school quickly identifies, and supports, those pupils who need help to improve their reading.”

Importantly, the inspectors highlighted the strength and accuracy of our school leadership, stating that: “The school has an accurate understanding of its strengths and weaknesses. It is working productively to further improve the quality of education that pupils receive.”

This acknowledgement of our rapid progress is testament to the commitment and hard work of our students, staff, governors, families, and trust partners. It is also a clear validation of the shared vision we hold: to ensure that Great Academy Ashton provides an excellent and inspiring education for every child.

Of course, there is still more work to do. We are taking seriously the two remaining areas for improvement, which relate to the consistency of teaching methods and how teachers check for understanding. We are already actively addressing these through focused professional development and quality assurance processes.

The full report is available on our school website under the Inspection Reports section. I warmly encourage you to read it in full—it is a balanced and encouraging reflection of where we are and where we are going.

As ever, if you have any questions or would like to discuss the report further, please do not hesitate to contact me at: deana.owen@gaa.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support as we build our great school, together.

Yours faithfully,



Deana Owen
Acting Principal