

Fri 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to see all of our pupils back in school this week, and offer a very warm welcome to our new starters.

I am delighted to share the outcome of our recent **Ofsted** inspection, and I wanted to write to you personally before the full report is published. This is a proud moment for our whole school community, and I want you to hear the headlines directly from me.

Inspectors judged West Kirby School and College as strong across five separate areas of our work: attendance and behaviour, inclusion, leadership and governance, personal development and wellbeing, and our post-16 provision. Strong is exactly the right word. It reflects not only the standard inspectors found, but the strength of relationships, the strength of support, and the strength of belief we hold in every one of our pupils.

Inspectors saw first-hand how well our pupils are known, and how quickly they settle and thrive once they join us. They noted the significant improvements pupils make in attendance and behaviour, the effective support that helps pupils manage their emotions, and the calm, inclusive atmosphere across the school. They were equally impressed by our Post 16 provision, describing outcomes for our students as '**exceptionally strong**' and highlighting the confidence, independence and real-world experience our young people gain before they move on.

Inspectors also recognised the strength of our leadership and governance, noting that all leaders '**drive improvement forward at pace**' and that every decision taken by leaders, governors and trustees is made '**with pupils and students at the centre**'. This shared belief runs through everything we do, and it is what inspectors identified as key to delivering a truly '**transformational**' education for every pupil in our school.

Perhaps what means the most to me is the section of the report titled 'What it's like to be a pupil at this school'. Inspectors wrote that '**pupils thrive here, that they feel safe, valued and included**', and that every member of staff lives out our motto, Changing Children's Lives. They spoke of strong relationships between staff and pupils sitting at the very heart of our success, and of a culture of care that helps pupils feel they truly belong.

None of this happens without you. Many of you took the time to complete Ofsted's parent survey, and your voice weighed heavily in the inspectors' final judgement. Thank you. Your support, trust and partnership with the school are a genuine part of this outcome, and I am hugely grateful to you for it.

I have attached a full copy of the report to this letter, ahead of its official publication on 8th September.

For now, I simply wanted to say thank you, and to celebrate this moment with you. It belongs to every member of our school community, most of all to our wonderful pupils.

With very best wishes,

Richard Hicks

Headteacher