

23rd June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted Inspection Outcome

I am writing to share with you the outcome of our most recent Ofsted inspection, which took place in May.

As you know, our previous inspection in October 2023 judged the school to be 'Requires Improvement' overall. Since then, we have been on a determined and focused improvement journey. The latest inspection, carried out under Ofsted's new inspection framework, shows that Pinewood has made clear progress.

The areas identified by inspectors are the same areas we had already recognised through our own self-evaluation and improvement planning. The report confirms that safeguarding standards are met, meaning that leaders, governors and staff have established an open culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and concerns are identified, acted upon and managed effectively.

The report also recognises a number of important strengths across the school. Ofsted judged Attendance and Behaviour, Leadership and Governance, and Personal Development and Wellbeing to be at the Expected standard. Inspectors noted that pupils know school is a safe space, enjoy learning, respond well to calm and supportive approaches, and benefit from broad and ambitious personal development opportunities.

"Needs attention" is not the same as "Requires improvement." Under the new Ofsted framework, the language has changed. Ofsted's own explanation states that Needs attention means that the expected standards are not yet fully met, but leaders are likely able to make the necessary improvements. This is very different from the previous overall judgement of "Requires Improvement".

The areas judged as Needs attention are Achievement, Curriculum and Teaching, and Inclusion. These areas focus mainly on ensuring that assessment, learning targets and adaptations to teaching are precise enough so that pupils can make the best possible progress. Inspectors recognised that effective action is already leading to improvements, but that some of this work is still at an early stage.

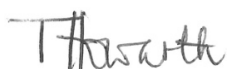
This matches our own view of the school. We know the work we need to continue: strengthening assessment, improving the consistency of teaching, ensuring pupils are moved on promptly when they are ready, and continuing to build strong communication with parents and carers. These are also the next steps identified in the report.

There is much to celebrate. Inspectors recognised that pupils feel safe and well cared for, build positive relationships, develop independence and confidence, and benefit from a welcoming culture at Pinewood. They also noted that most pupils move successfully into further education when they leave school.

I would like to thank our pupils, staff, trustees and families for their continued support. Pinewood has been through a significant period of change, including our move into the new building, and the report recognises that leaders have sustained improvement throughout this time.

We are proud of the progress made, realistic about the work still to do, and confident about the direction of the school. We will continue to keep families informed as we move forward with the next stage of Pinewood's improvement journey.

Best Regards



Taney Howarth
Headteacher



Robin Cregan
Chair of Trustees