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Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

19th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection and to reflect on both the many strengths of our school and the areas we are continuing to develop.

First and foremost, I am pleased that inspectors recognised the strong, inclusive culture at The Dean Academy. The report highlights the positive relationships between staff and pupils, the calm and purposeful environment across the school, and the way in which pupils feel safe, supported and valued. Importantly, Safeguarding is effective, meeting all of Ofsted's criteria and reflecting the open culture we have built where pupils' wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.

Inspectors also recognised the improvements we have made in attendance, which is now in line with national averages, and the clear expectations for behaviour that are understood and followed by pupils. The report acknowledges the impact of initiatives such as our "Call It Out" campaign in reducing incidents of bullying and increasing pupils' confidence to report concerns.

We are particularly proud that our inclusive approach was highlighted, including the effective support for pupils with additional needs and the work of our EPIC Resource Base. Inspectors also noted the breadth of opportunities available to pupils, from extra-curricular clubs and leadership roles to wider personal development experiences such as careers education and events like Deanstock.

As you may be aware, the new Ofsted Toolkit for inspecting schools is very different in approach, no longer trying to define a school in just one word but capturing a profile of where the school is having consistent and demonstrable impact and where ongoing improvement efforts should be focused.

The inspection did identify some areas for further development, particularly around consistency in teaching, the use of assessment, and ensuring high standards of literacy and written work across all subjects. I would like to reassure you that these priorities are not new. They align closely with our own self-evaluation, and the improvement work we had already begun prior to the inspection. We have clear plans in place, and this work is already underway, including strengthening our teaching approaches and further developing staff expertise. Ofsted appreciated this, commending the actions of school leadership in already having begun to make a difference on these areas. We are really proud of the sustained improvements in outcomes that we have seen for our young people in recent years and are sure these steps will push this forward even more so.



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We remain fully committed to ensuring that every pupil achieves their very best across all subjects and incredibly proud that the inspection team concluded that 'pupils are positive about their school' and 'staff feel valued and are proud to work at the school'.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you would like to discuss the report or our next steps in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Link to report - [here](#)

Yours sincerely

Hannah Rowlands
Headteacher

HR/TW – Ofsted report-190326



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