

Press Release.

Bristol Brunel Academy

A member of the Cabot Learning Federation

Speedwell Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 1NU

Bristol Brunel Academy thrilled to be judged a “good” school by OFSTED

Following our recent Ofsted inspection in June 2013 it is with pride that we are able to announce that Bristol Brunel Academy has been judged to be a “good” school by the education watchdog OFSTED. This is a massive achievement by the staff and students of the academy and confirms the transformation that has taken place since the academy opened in 2007 within the Cabot Learning Federation when it replaced Speedwell Technology College. We now have the platform to continue to improve the academy and are already working towards making the school outstanding in the next two to three years.

The inspectors described “a culture and ethos of high expectation and aspiration” and found “a palpable sense of pride among those who work and learn at BBA.” The Academy is pleased that with the depth of ambition and commitment to be excellent in all that is done has been recognised. The inspectors went on to say that “as a result, the academy is improving steadily and rapidly in some aspects.”

The improvements that were observed reflect well on the leadership of the academy by the Principal of BBA Dr Dan Nicholls and his team and in keeping with the other academies inspected within the Cabot Learning Federation highlighted the support from Sir David Carter and his team to improve the academies more rapidly. Leadership at BBA was seen to be “bringing the best out of people” and are making, “assessments of strengths, impact and weaknesses in teaching (that) are accurate and precise”, whilst the federation “is used well to enhance the academy’s current trajectory of improvement. The ability to broker support from other parts of the federation is a significant strength. “

Inspectors said that students achieve well. “They make good progress from their different starting points” and “Teaching is typically good and occasionally outstanding. Targeted professional development, an effective programme to improve literacy skills across the curriculum and regular opportunities for staff to share and develop classroom practice are used well to drive further improvements in teaching.”

The culture of positive behaviour has been a feature of BBA since it opened, and

was commented on as a significant strength in the last inspection in 2011. The inspectors found again that students behave well and feel safe. They said that students “have a good understanding of the academy’s high expectations of behaviour and demonstrate positive attitudes to learning.” The Personalised Learning Centre (PLC) is one example of the extensive care and support that the academy provides to help individual students to overcome significant difficulties. As one student stated, ‘Without the extra support of the PLC, I would not have made it this far in school.’

Dr Dan Nicholls, Principal of Bristol Brunel Academy said, “this is an excellent result for the students and their families in this area of Bristol. It is confirmation of the depth of commitment that the Academy has for raising standards and seeking to secure improved outcomes for students. It provides the perfect springboard for the Academy to become Outstanding in two years. I am especially proud of the commitment shown by every member of staff this year; this outcome is testimony to the depth of talent that we have within the Academy”

Sir David Carter, Executive Principal of the Cabot Learning Federation said, “Bristol Brunel Academy is very close to my heart having been one of the founding members of the Cabot Learning Federation. The staff and students at the academy are wonderful ambassadors for the BBA community and I am so pleased that all of the hard work and dedication has been recognised by OFSTED.”

There will be a photo op On Thursday 11th July between 1.00-1.30pm

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