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OFSTED CONFIDENCE IN SCHOOL'S LEADERSHIP TO CONTINUE TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT AT HARROGATE HIGH SCHOOL

Ofsted inspectors have expressed confidence in new school leadership at Harrogate High School to drive further improvement in school standards. The inspectors' report, due to be published by Ofsted next week, has recognised the school's development, confirming that "actions that leaders have taken have secured improvements in the quality of education".

Whilst recognising that, overall, Harrogate High School requires improvement as it continues to develop, inspectors expressed confidence that the school's leaders "have an accurate view of the school," and that they have identified the next steps to be taken in school improvement. The report recognised work undertaken by the Trust (of which Harrogate High is a part) to strengthen governance and appoint new leadership.

Inspectors visited Harrogate High School for two days in late April. They found:

- **Arrangements for safeguarding are effective**, staff are well trained, and safeguarding is "seen as everyone's responsibility" at Harrogate High School.
- **Leaders have developed an "ambitious curriculum"**, including for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities – and that pupils with additional needs are "well supported in lessons".
- The school is developing a "**culture of reading**", with younger pupils reading more often and pupils who need help with reading getting the support they need.
- **All pupils receive independent advice and guidance to help them choose future careers**, with a programme of activity to enable young people to make choices about education and training when they leave. Harrogate High School holds the "Career Mark" quality standard for its support to students preparing for the world of work.

Inspectors also provided helpful recommendations for further improvement at Harrogate High School – all of which have already been incorporated into school leaders' development plans. These include: greater consistency in the application of the school's new curriculum and also in the further implementation of its behaviour policy; more planning of the personal development curriculum; and improvements in communications with stakeholders.





Harrogate High School is part of the Northern Star Academies Trust – a partnership of nine schools across Harrogate, Skipton and Keighley.

Sukhraj Gill, Headteacher of Harrogate High School, said:

“This is an exciting time for Harrogate High School. Inspectors have recognised the improvements we have already made and confirmed that we are on the right track to make Harrogate High a great school. We have achieved a great deal at Harrogate High School – with a lot more to do. We will continue our relentless drive to make Harrogate High the best school it can be for all the young people that we educate.

“We’re especially pleased that inspectors recognised that we provide good support for pupils with additional needs. We value every young person in our school, whatever their needs. Ofsted’s findings are a vindication of our values as a truly inclusive school”.

Jenn Plews, Chief Executive of Northern Star Academies Trust, said:

“Harrogate High School has made massive strides forward under its new leadership. The Ofsted report is clear: leaders’ actions have improved the quality of education. The fact that the school is full and has been oversubscribed is a testament to the work our school and our Trust across Harrogate.

“Inspections are always an opportunity to learn from the inspectors’ feedback and recommendations to help us develop and improve. We welcome this report as a positive contribution to continue Harrogate High School’s continuing journey to become a great school”.

Further information:

- The Ofsted Report is available [to download here](#)
- For further enquiries, contact: Peter Addison-Child, Chief Operating Officer, Northern Star Academies Trust. paddisonchild@nsat.org.uk or 07875 381863

