

Friday, 8th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Outcome of Ofsted Inspection at WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull

As you will be aware, WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull was inspected by Ofsted on 1st and 2nd October 2024. We have now received the final report from this inspection and we are writing to share the outcome with you.

It is important to note that this recent inspection is the first one since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. Since the last inspection and as recently as September 2024, Ofsted have removed 'one word judgements' in favour of a report card of measures that highlight the strengths and areas to improve in five key areas: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Sixth Form provision.

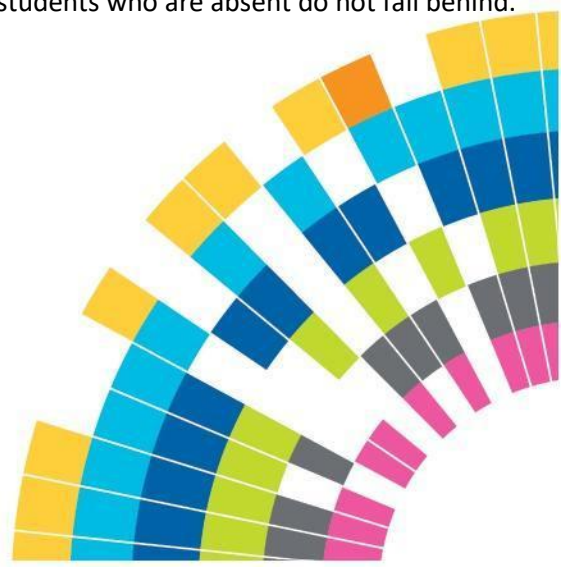
We are pleased to confirm that Ofsted have recognised **Personal Development** and the academy's **Sixth Form** provision as **'good'**. Inspectors particularly noted that **'pupils enjoy the opportunities they have at WMG Academy'** and **'appreciate the focus on engineering and links with local employers.'** Inspectors **praised the academy for offering 'a wide range of subjects that tie in with its UTC mission of engineering.'**

Inspectors highlighted the personal development of students as a strength at WMG Academy Solihull. The suite of extra-curricular activities, careers advice and guidance, and the destinations of students when they complete their studies at the academy were noted as particular strengths. This means that **students are successful in accessing apprenticeships, university courses and employment.**

Inspectors further noted that **parents are very positive about the experience their children have at WMG Academy Solihull,** and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in the Ofsted parental survey.

Whilst we welcome the 'good' ratings within the report, inspectors have identified some areas requiring improvement. Lower student outcomes in Key Stage 4 (KS4) linked to low attendance of some students at the academy resulted in 'requires improvement' ratings for the Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes of students, and frustratingly by linked judgement, Leadership and Management.

All inspection reports for all schools make a number of recommendations, called Areas For Improvement (AFI's). WMG Academy Solihull AFI's are to continue to further improve attendance, particularly for vulnerable students. WMG Academy already works closely with parents and external agencies to address poor attendance and has a pastoral team dedicated to supporting students' wellbeing and attendance. We are committed to refining our approach to ensure that attendance across all year groups at the academy improves and that those students who are absent do not fall behind.



Another AFI is asking the academy to focus on the consistency of teaching in some subject areas where there is a need for greater definition within the curriculum to ensure teachers and students are clear about what key knowledge and skills they must learn. Inspectors also noted that, at times, more could be done to support students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in the classroom.

As leaders at WMG Academy Solihull, we have high expectations for our students and are ambitious for them to achieve the best possible outcomes and to secure positive destinations as they move through their education. As such, both attendance and student progress were already embedded throughout the academy's own development plan for this academic year. The recent inspection took place early in the school year and, although the development plan was already in place, it was too early for inspectors to see sustained improvements.

In September, the academy strengthened its Leadership Team with the appointment of a new Assistant Principal with key responsibilities for the Quality of Teaching and Learning. We have also recently appointed a new Higher Level Learning Support Assistant to complement our existing SEND team, ensuring we enhance support for our students. In addition we have recently appointed a Social, Emotional and Mental Health Practitioner who is supporting vulnerable students at risk of being absent from education and this is already showing impact.

Since opening in 2016, WMG Academy Solihull has benchmarked KS4 students on entry using standardised testing. Our data clearly shows that **student outcomes in Year 11 compared to their starting point in Year 10 have improved over the last two years**, with students making **positive progress** since joining WMG Academy. The validated government data recently received after the Ofsted inspection visit further confirms this.

As leaders, we continue to work closely with our experienced Board of Governors and the WMG Academy Trustees to review progress across the academy and to target interventions and improvements where necessary. Subject leaders at WMG Academy Solihull also work closely with partner organisations, including our employer partners and sister academy in Coventry, to ensure our curriculum, teaching, and learning are engaging and equip students with the skills and knowledge they need for success.

Whilst leaders at the academy recognise that we must reflect and work to address those areas for improvement identified in the report, we remain immensely proud of the many successes and achievements across the academy.

We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank our staff, students and parents/carers for their continued support and dedication to the academy at this time.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Should you wish to discuss this letter or the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection further, please do not hesitate to contact the academy by email to solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Tait
Chief Executive Officer



Mrs C Morris
Associate Principal

