



Dear parents and carers

As you know, we welcomed inspectors from OFSTED into school for a monitoring visit on 4th October. We are pleased to be able to share with you their report from that visit, which you can read [here](#). While we look forward to a full graded inspection in the near future, at this stage the purpose of their visits is to assess progress and provide further support on the weaknesses identified in February.

We are delighted that the inspectors have recognised the progress we have made, citing improvements to the culture of safeguarding, to attendance and to the curriculum, and in particular strong improvements in behaviour management. They noted our well-structured PSHE curriculum, our dedicated personal and professional development sessions, and how we are using tutor time for topics such as citizenship and careers.

We know, and the inspectors acknowledge, that we have more work to do, but we are aligned on those areas and are working through a strong plan that will deliver sustained improvements. A key part of that plan is further strengthening of our Senior Leadership Team, and I'm delighted to announce that we have appointed two new Assistant Principals who will start with us in January. Both have extensive experience in secondary education and leadership roles within their current schools and impressed us with their solid abilities and their understanding of our vision for UTC Reading. One will take responsibility for behaviour and safeguarding; and the other for the quality of education, teaching and learning.

In Jennie's end of week update on Friday, she shared some crucial areas we are focusing on this half term, all of which form part of our OFSTED improvement plan and link to areas the inspectors have commented on. The first of these is curriculum information, including not only what is being studied by your child in each subject, but how that learning is sequenced so that topics are revisited and learning embedded. Secondly, she reiterated our focus on behaviour, punctuality and dress code; all of these have improved considerably since our inspection in February but remain a focus since they are the bedrock of positive learning behaviour. We, as ever, appreciate your support in these areas.

Finally, Jennie included the theme for our personal development this half term: managing risk and keeping safe. This is a key part of the PSHE curriculum and we're pleased to see how students have engaged with this so far; we look forward to welcoming external visitors including Thames Valley Police later on this term.

We look forward to another monitoring visit next term and will share information with you about this at the time.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support of the school, and encourage you to sign up, if you haven't already, for our forthcoming Parent Forums. The links are:

- [Year 10 parents](#) Friday 10 November 11.30am
- [Year 11 parents](#) Friday 17 November 11.30am
- [Year 12 parents](#) Friday 24 November 2pm
- [Year 13 parents](#) Friday 1 December 11.30am

If you aren't able to attend, we would be very grateful to hear your feedback via [this form](#). We will also be running sessions for parents of children with SEND and will share information about this in due course.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Edwards and Jennie Thomson
Executive Principal and Head of School