

Ofsted say leadership of Thomas Alleynes Academy is 'outstanding'

Ofsted this week praised The Thomas Alleynes Academy saying that the school was 'Good' overall, with 'Outstanding' leadership and management. The school is the first in Stevenage to receive this accolade from the education inspectorate under the current Ofsted framework.

The inspection demonstrates the huge progress that the school has made since it became an academy sponsored by North Hertfordshire College in 2013. Executive Principal Mark Lewis said:

"We are delighted that Ofsted have confirmed that Thomas Alleynes is a 'Good' school with the capacity to quickly become 'Outstanding'. The school has made incredible progress over the last three years, and is a great example of how academy conversion can help drive real improvement in a school."

The report confirms that the school is graded 'Good' for: the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching, the behaviour and safety of pupils, and for its sixth form provision. It highlighted that: "students' achievement is good, and is improving quickly, as a result of good teaching and effective leadership."

In grading the school's leadership and management as 'Outstanding' the report notes of the leadership team led by Principal Julia Flanagan that: "at the heart of all their work is the commitment to ensuring that every student should want to learn and be able to achieve to the best of their ability." Julia said:

"I am delighted for all the staff, students and parents that we have received official recognition of their hard work and dedication. The Academy will continue in its relentless drive to become 'Outstanding' in all aspects of its work."

Praise for students is also included in the report, with their behavior around the academy described as 'exemplary.' Inspectors also noted that 'students of all ages are eager to take responsibility and to fulfil leadership roles. For example, students are proud to be part of the student parliament and debating society, to lead sports teams and to organise events at the academy.'

Originally founded in 1558, the School became an Academy sponsored by North Hertfordshire College in 2013. Through their sponsorship relationship, Thomas Alleynes Academy has developed important linkages with the College and with the two studio schools that the College also sponsors – creating new opportunities and enriching the student experience in the school, studio school and the college itself. New CEO at NHC, Matt Hamnett, said:

"This report is testament to the expertise and dedication shown by Mark Lewis, Julia Flanagan, her staff and students. I am hugely optimistic about our work as an academy sponsor; I believe we can help improve education and create real choice for students as we expand our work in this area."

Thomas Alleynes is now accepting applications for its sixth form offer, including A-levels in a wide range of subject areas. To find out more visit www.tas.herts.sch.uk or call 01438 344344

