

National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Goffs -Churchgate Academy
SMSC Lead: Ms C. Goodchild

Principal: Mr. T. Sparks
Verification visit: 11th December 2019

Dear Mr Sparks,

I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Goffs-Churchgate Academy has been awarded **Gold** level of the National SMSC Quality Mark, and this has been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel.

I was delighted to visit the academy again and witness how much of the excellent work that you had initiated in July 2018, has been enhanced and consolidated. At the last review, it was clear that a lot of excellent work had been started, but was inevitably, still in the early stages. These early green shoots have now started to bear fruit.

I would also like to thank the students who met with me to explain with such confidence, the different ways that the school contributes to their SMSC development through the curriculum, assemblies, competitions, visits and visitors. They explained how the vertical tutor groups have helped develop positive relationships through the school, and the how they develop inter-personal skills in a variety of approaches that make the curriculum integrated and purposeful. It is clear from the relationships observed, and the way the students spoke with pride and affection about their school that Goffs-Churchgate Academy has a very happy family atmosphere where young people and adults can flourish.

It was also clear from the conversations with parents and Governors that the whole school community has been brought into the vision that you provide and the practical opportunities that this brings. It was also fascinating to hear the same messages being reiterated from the SLT, including Governors, staff and students. The fact that so many more students have gone on to post-16 education and that the Academy is now oversubscribed, is also a testament to the excellent ethos that you have created and the strong and growing reputation.

I would especially like to congratulate Ms Goodchild, who is leading on the development of SMSC with a passionate, but resolute, commitment and professionalism. Together you have enabled staff to develop an increasingly positive ethos for learning, which not only encourages children and young people throughout the school to succeed and make progress academically, but also to flourish in other aspects of their lives. It also supports staff well-being, without which, it would be hard to provide such educational opportunities.

I congratulate Goffs-Churchgate Academy on the Gold standard of SMSC development that is afforded their pupils. Young Citizens will be in touch to discuss which aspects of your provision can be shared with other schools.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

Through your self-evaluation and our discussions, it is evident that there are numerous SMSC related strengths at Goffs-Churchgate Academy; the following are a few key examples:

- SMSC is clearly embedded throughout the school, across the curriculum, and into the wider community. This happens to such an extent, that the children, and

sometimes staff, can forget how much high-quality SMSC development occurs, and this significantly exceeds that which is provided by so many other schools.

- Developments to the curriculum, which includes some interesting approaches to integrating subjects and making them relevant; teaching life-skills and the innovative Character Charter and vertical tutoring have not only produced excellent GCSE results but have helped to create a strong family ethos throughout the Academy.
- The increasing opportunities throughout the curriculum for trips and visits, both within the UK and overseas as well as the planned trips for Year 7, have not only fostered strong relationships between the students, but have also raised aspirations significantly.
- The time taken by Ms Goodchild, to personally interview every single student, has been appreciated by the young people and their parents alike. Listening to students, developing student leadership in a number of different approaches and responding to their suggestions in a 'You said... I did' approach has also been valued and paid dividends in terms of engagement, personal development, behaviour and attitudes.
- All of this has been achieved whilst improving academic attainment and never compromising on student welfare or staff well-being.

Areas for development:

- Although the curriculum has, above, been identified as a strength, you have identified that there is still work to be done to ensure appropriate breadth and balance, but also to continue to refine and extend opportunities for careers related learning and even more trips and visits.
- Similarly, the development of the Character Charter is recognised as a strength by students, but this can also be further extended to support mental health and emotional well-being.
- As the school grows towards full capacity, there will be challenges and opportunities to maintain and enhance still further the excellent school ethos and SMSC development for the benefit of the whole school community.

Verifier: 

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

Please note that this award is recognised for 3 years and that re-verification should be sought by December 2022.