

14th January 2022

Ofsted gives St Anne's a great start to 2022!

We are pleased to publish the outcomes from St Anne's Church of England Academy's latest full Ofsted inspection, carried out in November 2021.

Inspectors reported a high number of areas of improvement since our last full inspection in 2017 and stated that *"Pupils receive a far better quality of education that they did in the past"*.

The report notes that *"senior leadership, subject leadership and governance have all been overhauled"* since St Anne's joined The Cranmer Education Trust. *"Governance is (now) strong. Trustees are knowledgeable and effective in supporting leaders to improve the quality of education that pupils receive"*. Throughout the report inspectors refer to the ambition and drive of the leadership of St Anne's to make the best provision for our young people.

Highlights included comments from inspectors such as:

(St Anne's is) "A happy and safe school", where "Leaders and teachers share high expectations of pupils' behaviour and achievement. Adults care about all pupils and want the best for them. They are committed to helping all pupils to achieve well in the school and in their future lives".

Inspectors also praised our young people:

"Pupils are keen to learn. They concentrate on their work and are punctual to lessons" where "they behave well". Pupils also "behave well during social times. They enjoy positive relationships with one another and with staff". These positive relationships mean that pupils "are confident to seek help from staff when they need it". The "strong culture of tolerance and respect" means that "bullying is rare. Staff resolve any bullying quickly and effectively".

Inspectors comment positively on the *"suitably ambitious curriculum"* which offers pupils choice *"to study a broad range of subjects"* and provides a *"varied range of activities to support their wider development"* including *"clubs and activities that inspire and interest pupils"*. What pupils learn – the subject curriculums – have been re-thought and re-organised; inspectors noted that pupils had said *"they are learning more than they did in the past"*.

Careers education, in particular, is commended: *"pupils learn what they need to plan for their futures"*.

The disruption caused by COVID-19 has had an impact on young people's education everywhere. Reading, in particular, has been affected, especially for pupils transitioning into secondary school. Inspectors noted that *"leaders ensure that pupils who have fallen behind in reading are identified and support to catch-up quickly"*. They also comment that *"pupils, parents and carers value the support that leaders and teachers provide for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)"* and that there is *"a strong culture of safeguarding"*.

The areas that inspectors identified for improvement are areas that the school are already working on. They prioritised the development of the reading curriculum and culture of the

school, particularly given the disruption caused by COVID, and have created a new post to lead literacy development across the school and further strengthen the leadership of learning. St Anne's and the Cranmer Education Trust's professional development programmes are focused on ensuring that all teachers are really skilled in pinpointing where pupils have gaps in their learning, to enable them to achieve their best.

Chris Heyes, Headteacher of St Anne's Academy said:

Overall, we are really pleased with this strong start to 2022. St Anne's is a school on the up. External inspectors saw this and noted both the rapid progress that has been made already and the clear direction of travel.

Building a great school is a joint effort. Thank you for our pupils, our staff, our governors and trustees, our parents and our community who have supported and invested in St Anne's throughout. Together we will make our school everything St Anne's can be, and is meant to be, for all our young people.

Julie Hollis, CEO of the Cranmer Education Trust stated:

The Cranmer Education Trust and St Anne's CE Academy welcome our full inspection report which reflects clearly and positively the journey that the school has been on and the high-quality provision it now offers. St Anne's joined Cranmer Education Trust in 2020 and it is clear the impact of being part of our trust has been rapid and highly effective. Ofsted reports are very factual; they describe what inspectors see, hear and experience in their time in the school. We are really pleased by the strengths and quality that they have recorded, which confirms that we are on the way to what our vision says we want to be:

***"The best for everyone;
The best from everyone;
We have faith in our future"***

You can download a full copy of the report from the St Anne's website by clicking [here](#).