

We have prepared a series of responses to some of the key questions you might have. It is of the utmost importance to remember that our focus remains to provide stability for the students and minimise the impact to their learning. We do not have all the answers at this stage; when further information becomes available we will of course, communicate that to you. If you have any immediate thoughts or feedback on the Ofsted report we would ask that you communicate them via email to feedback@chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk rather than calling directly into the school. Members of the Leadership team are monitoring this email account. Please do not speculate or discuss the situation with the press or on social media. The Local Authority will lead the school consultation procedures, and will release their own documentation on this.

What does the Ofsted Report mean?

OFSTED can pass judgement on a school at one of 4 outcomes:

- 1 OUSTANDING
- 2 GOOD
- 3 REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT
- 4 INADEQUATE

Following the 2-day inspection in early March the school has been judged at a 4 and has been placed in Special Measures.

The Local Authority is providing support to the school while the consequences of this judgement are considered. However, when a school has been judged as inadequate, the Local Authority is required to consider the closure of a school as one of the two re-organisation options, the other being opening Chiltern Edge as a sponsored academy. The Local Authority has indicated its intention to begin the consultation process on the possible closure of Chiltern Edge School. Further information will be provided for parents and the local community by the LA later this week. **The Local Authority will also be holding an information evening for parents to explain more about the consultation process on Wednesday, 3rd May at Chiltern Edge School (timings to be confirmed).**

Why did it take so long for the Ofsted report to come out?

We have no control over the timing of the release of the OfSTED report. Unfortunately, it is common when there is a judgment such as ours that there is an extended delay between the date of the inspection and the release of the report. We had the added delay due to the Easter holidays.

Why are all subjects not mentioned in the Ofsted report?

During an inspection we have very limited input as to where the inspectors visit. Understandably a considerable amount of their time is spent within the Maths, English and Science departments as these form the basis of the curriculum at both Key Stages 3 and 4.

The report says 'students commented'... how were these views gathered?

During the inspection there were a series of student panel interviews. There were a variety of groups of students selected by the Leadership Team to meet the requirements requested by OFSTED. During these interviews a number of questions were asked, the answers to which helped the inspectors form their judgments. Inspectors also took the opportunity during lesson changeover, break and lunch time to speak informally to the students about their experiences at the school. The inspectors were keen to feed back to us informally, that the students they met with had been very polite, open and honest.

In the last Ofsted the school was judged as good – how has it gone down to Special Measures?

The school has made some progress since the last inspection in 2012 but following a disappointing set of results in the summer of 2016 it was felt that the school has not made significant progress in improving the outcomes for current students. The Inspectors also felt that there were too many inconsistencies across the school. The inspectors felt that the School's Self Evaluation, written by senior and middle leaders within the school and overseen by the Governors, had correctly identified some of the priorities for improvement however they felt the pace of change had been too slow.

What were the main concerns?

The OFSTED report highlight a number of key areas that we need to focus on to improve. The key areas requiring immediate action are:

- Raising teachers' expectations of students within lessons
- Improve the consistency and quality of feedback provided to students to aid progress.
- Progress of pupils needs to be tracked more rigorously to ensure all pupils within departments make the progress of which they are capable.

Conduct an external review of the use of funding to support disadvantaged students to secure better progress.

What can I do to support the school?

Our expectations remain unchanged with regard to student attendance and behaviour; please continue to ensure your child is punctual to school, equipped to learn and continues to follow teachers' instructions in lessons.

There will undoubtedly be negative and/or inaccurate comments and speculation in the press and on social media – please avoid becomingly involved in these discussions in a public forum. Should you be contacted by the press we would ask you not to comment.

There will be formal opportunities to ask questions on Wednesday 3rd May at 7pm, with representatives from the School and Local Authority.

Will Leadership within the school stay as it is? What will happen to the Governors?

An IEB (Interim Executive Board) will be appointed by the LA with consent from the Regional Schools Commissioner and at the approval of the Governors. The IEB has the power to make decisions about the Leadership of the school. There will be regular communication between the IEB and the Senior Leadership team which will be communicated to you in due course. The IEB will replace the governing body and can, as such, then, hold the Leadership to account.

How will the school address the concerns identified? What support will be provided to the school?

The School, in conjunction with the IEB and LA, will produce a Statement of Action to identify and prioritise where immediate improvements can be made.

Is my child safe at the school?

Yes. OFSTED found that the Safeguarding protocols at the school were effective and the systems in place are robust. Students who regularly utilise CSD continue to value this resource. The Parent Survey

highlighted that pastoral care is a strength of the school; and this is the front line in keeping pupils safe.

Is there a behaviour problem at the school?

OFSTED identified that pupils “conduct themselves well around the school and during break-times”. Most students are respectful towards each other, although we have some work to do to deepen our knowledge and understanding of some issues that students raised with the inspectors.

Will my child be disadvantaged at the school?

There are obvious concerns highlighted about the quality of teaching and student progress in some curriculum areas of the school. We will be working hard to address the areas of concern with the support of the IEB. The report states that “safeguarding is effective”, “attendance is improving”, and that “pupils feel safe and know who to talk to should they have any concerns”.

Will my child’s options post 16 be compromised?

Ofsted says “Pupils appreciate the impartial careers advice and guidance they receive”. “[Pupils] are prepared for the next stage of their career development”.

We have a strong careers team and established programmes to support students with the Post-16 options process. Coming from a school in special measures should not impact their opportunities at Sixth Form or College.

Are there still classes without teachers? What is being done to address this?

We are making every effort to recruit staff. It is probable that this judgement will make it harder. The allocation of staff within the timetable is under continual review to ensure the most efficient model is run.

Will my child’s classes / teachers / timetables change?

There is no immediate need or intention to make further changes to the timetable or adjustments to the curriculum. Individual departments will continue to monitor student progress and ensure they are placed in the most appropriate class in order to succeed.

Can I transfer my child to another school now?

Whilst transferring mid-year is possible it can be a disruptive process for pupils. You would need to complete an in-year admissions form from Oxfordshire/Reading County Council to begin the process. We would recommend before completing the forms making a formal visit to the prospective school to ensure they have places and can accommodate any specific needs your child might have.

Will there be opportunities for me to ask questions?

If you have questions regarding the OfSTED report please use our contact email address that this being monitored by members of the Senior Leadership Team: feedback@chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk

There will be formal opportunities to ask questions on Wednesday 3rd May at 7pm, with representatives from the School and Local Authority.

Will there be media interest?

FAQ - Parents

We anticipate the story about the judgment, and consultation will be picked up by the media fairly quickly. We have prepared a media statement to release to the press. Please do not speculate or discuss the situation with the press or on social media.