

News

George Pindar School strides out in rapid improvement

George Pindar School's new headteacher has a clear and ambitious vision for his school, according to Ofsted inspectors in their latest report.

The head, Julian Leader, is well supported by a new leadership team and together they are rapidly tackling weaknesses and building up new strengths.

Pupils, say inspectors, already talk of the positive impact of the new leadership and in particular appreciate the new emphasis on rewards in addition to sanctions in the behaviour management system.

A new curriculum has been introduced this term and inspectors have praised the plan to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum, including the performing and visual arts, while improving the teaching of core subjects and literacy in particular.

However, Ofsted stated that this rapid progress was too recent to avoid the school being judged to have serious weaknesses. Prior to the new head being appointed a year ago, senior leaders had failed to tackle issues of attendance and behaviour and did not have high enough expectations or take swift enough action to eradicate poor teaching and weak outcomes.

"Ofsted made reference to the work we are now undertaking, to improve teaching and learning," said Julian Leader. "We are confident that we can take the school forward and together with our partners we have great ambition for our young people. We are very excited about the future of the school."

Inspectors also recognised the work of North Yorkshire County Council in supporting George Pindar through the Scarborough Pledge initiative, a £750,000 programme for Scarborough to bring about an overall improvement of educational standards; close the attainment gap for the most disadvantaged children, raise aspirations among young people, increase the recruitment and retention of good teachers and help parents to be better equipped to support their children's learning.

More recently the Government has set up a North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity area which covers Scarborough, Whitby and Filey. It is one of 12 opportunity areas in a £72 million Government programme to target areas of the UK which face the greatest challenges in relation to social mobility.

Opportunity Areas will see local partnerships formed between schools, colleges, universities, businesses, charities and councils to ensure all children have the chance to reach their full potential.

"We are very encouraged that Ofsted has praised the work of new leaders at George Pindar who share the high ambition and hopes we have for the children and young people of Scarborough," said County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Schools.

"The county council has already begun a whole range of exciting initiatives through the Scarborough Pledge and these will be built on through the Government's Opportunity Area funding. We are confident that the future for Scarborough's children and young people is very bright indeed."