



# THE BRITTONS ACADEMY

## FAQs of Year 6 parents/carers



### **Lots of parents are telling me Brittons is a good school so why does it have an Ofsted grading of 'Inadequate'?**

Mr Thompson joined the academy in September 2018 after the academy's lowest recorded exam results for the second year in succession. Ofsted visited in July 2019 and made their judgement before the improved 2019 results were published. Since Mr Thompson joined the academy, there have been significant changes for the better to address Ofsted's areas of concern. If you speak to parents of children at the school, they can tell you how happy their children are as they are being challenged to achieve their potential.

### **How has Brittons tackled the areas of development in the Ofsted report?**

The main issue at the academy was inconsistency in teaching. Lots of students would be excited and highly motivated by the curriculum delivered by their teachers, however, some teachers were not giving students the same experience. While the good long-standing, experienced members of staff remain at the academy, we have also employed new subject specialists in many key areas. These include; English, Maths, Science, Computer Science, History, R.E and Media. All subject areas have reviewed and enhanced their curriculums to ensure engagement and challenge. Since September 2019, four Assistant Principals have also joined our school to enhance the leadership team and drive forward improvements quicker.

### **When will the Ofsted grading change?**

Unfortunately, the academy is currently on hold due to the pandemic. We were due to be visited at the time of the lockdown and would have welcomed an inspection to show everyone the new Brittons Academy. Ofsted have said the earliest they will be able to visit is February 2021. We are using this time to drive for further improvement. They will then need to visit a second time before they are able to issue a new judgement. Depending on the spread of Coronavirus, these dates may be pushed back and we are unable to change our Ofsted grading until these visits have taken place. However, we were pleased Ofsted visited us on the 29th October 2020 to conduct a socially-distanced Covid check and the positive letter of their findings is on our website.

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## **Are pupil outcomes improving?**

Yes, after Mr Thompson's first year at the academy, the results improved by  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a GCSE grade for every entry. Again, this year, the results improved by another  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a GCSE grade for every entry. As an academy, we underwent a rigorous process so that the Centre Assessed Grades were fair and represented the Year 11 students' true ability to ensure they were not over-inflated which would cause students to struggle later on in their academic journey. Under Mr Thompson's leadership, his previous school improved its results year on year for seven years.

## **Do students have the same Head of Year and Support and Guidance Manager throughout their time at Brittons?**

We are the only school in either Havering or Barking and Dagenham to have a pastoral system where every child has a Form Tutor, Head of Year and Support and Guidance Manager who stays with them from Year 7 through to Year 11. This means parents/carers can build close relationships with these key members of staff to ensure any barriers to learning are addressed quickly and efficiently. The Head of Year's role is to focus on the students' academic potential, while the Support and Guidance Manager is a non-teaching member of staff who will offer pastoral support and guidance to both the student and their family.

## **What is the planned transition programme for Year 6s that choose Brittons?**

We are hoping some sense of normality will return soon. As long as this happens, we will invite all Year 6 to a transition day on site where they will sample lessons and meet the staff they will be working with. We will also provide you with transition materials that contain useful contacts and key information. This year, we introduced a 'Meet the Tutor' event (socially distanced!) so that parents/carers meet their child's form tutor face to face prior to the child starting secondary education. There's also the option to meet the medical and SEN team as well as the Head of Year and Support and Guidance Manager. There's even the opportunity to buy your child's school tie! Following this year's feedback, we plan to run this event again but hopefully without the Covid restrictions. We feel it's essential every Year 6 feels welcomed, supported and confident about starting at their chosen secondary school.

## **What is the plan for September 2021?**

We hope to be 'back to normal' but we will only go back to the 'old' routines when it is completely safe to do so. The separate entrances/exits and designated recreation area for Year 7 will remain the same as it means every child can be greeted by a member of their year team each morning and they have their own space during social time.

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